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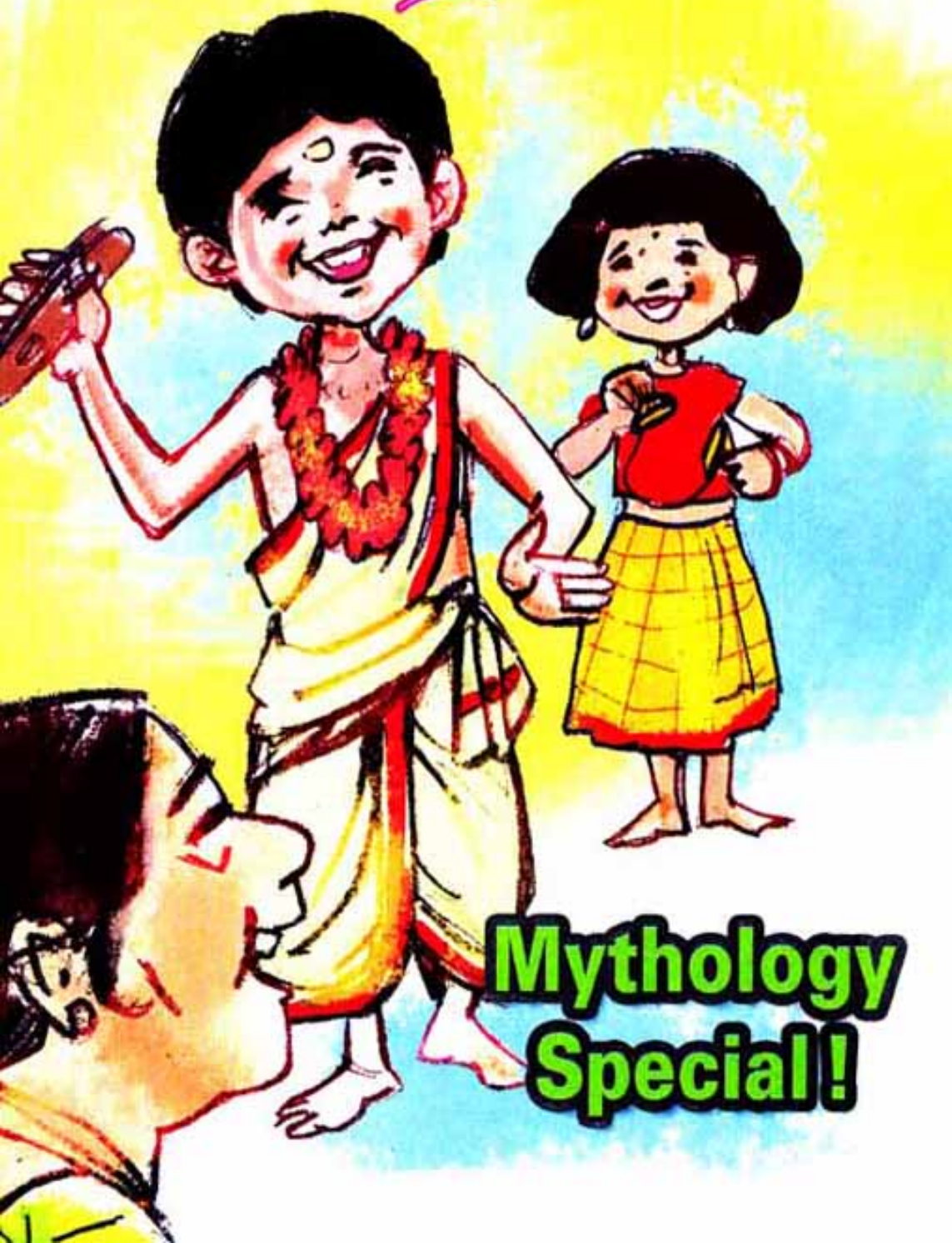
GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



Mythology Special!

PARLE
Mr. Poppins ne jacket kyun pehni?
NEW SMART PACK
Rs. 2 only
POPPINS
When the rain stopped and Mr. Poppins stepped out, he saw something he had never seen before. He rubbed his eyes to make sure he wasn't seeing things. But they wouldn't go away. The two rainbows were really there. At that moment, Mr. Poppins decided that even he would have two rainbows wrapped around him: even he would be two times more beautiful.
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GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

October 2010 Vol.XXIII, No. 4

KALKI GROUP

Of all created things the loveliest
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

Cover Design: Lalitha

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THE Magazine for Children

Dear Readers,

Every country has its own brand o: mythology. Our nation is a treasure house o: classical myths and legends. The only othe: country which can perhaps equal but not exceec our mythological wealth is Greece.

You will be reading some mythologica stories in this issue of Gokulam. But this is only a drop in the ocean. You can, as you grow older dig up more and more from hundreds of books on mythology of various countries.

A Treasure House of Mythology

These stories are rich in fantasy and though at times unbelievable do fascinate the reader. Most of them have a message to convey but you'll hav to think deeply to get at it. Otherwise it is lost an only the beauty of colourful imagination i: realised. Most of these messages are good an beneficial to mankind.

A few stories do convey wrong messages an some messages are not acceptable in moder times. However, it is good to remember that thes stories of absorbing interest were writte: thousands of years ago and with the best o intentions.

- Edito:

Contributor of the Year

Suhasini – The Little Champ!

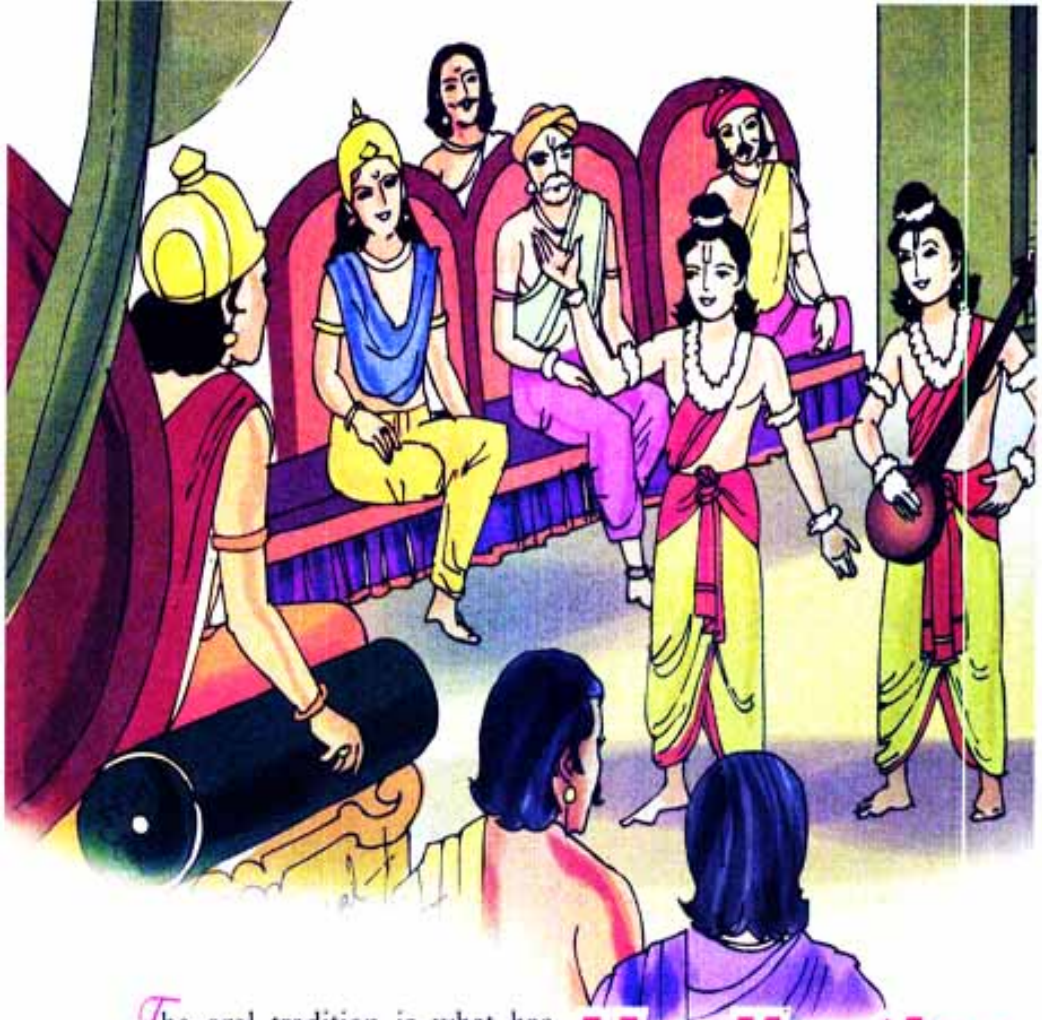
Suhasini Ramani emerged the winner for the period July 2009 – June 2010 by making the most number of contributions to Gokulam. A class six student of GD Birla Centre for Education, Kolkata, Suhasini was extremely happy when she received the congratulatory letter from Gokulam declaring her the winner. A great fan of this magazine, she awaits it eagerly every month and sincerely wishes it to be a fortnightly.

Suhasini is very fond of reading books and magazines and her hobbies include music and painting. She enjoys watching cartoon shows like Chhota Bheem, Doraemon and the art show M.A.D. She loves to solve crossword puzzles and wants Gokulam to conduct more competitions.

She gives full credit to her mother who always encourages her to read, write and contribute articles, especially to Gokulam. She is blessed to have great friends who are cheerful, supportive and sportive. Suhasini's ambition is to become a teacher.

All the best, dear Suhasini! May all your dreams and wishes come true! And may your award inspire many more students to read more and write more. Books worth ₹500 will be sent to Suhasini - the Little Champ!

- Editor



Harikatha :

The oral tradition is what has kept so much of knowledge alive in the Indian sub-continent, over ages when print was unknown. From the *Vedas* to myths, traditions, life skills and popular folklore, poetry and songs have combined to keep the stories colourful and interesting. Every region in India developed its own peculiar style of narrative and music, with local bards adding flavour and new dimensions to the story.

There is the *Kathakalakshepa* (literally meaning 'time spent listening to stories') at temples an weddings. The *Purana Pravachan* is prevalent in many states in India it means 'expounding the *Puranas*' Andhra Pradesh has the *Burrakathe* a gypsy way of telling folk stories Tamil Nadu has the *Villu-pattu* o 'song of the bow'(mostly folk tale in the form of songs). Then ther is the *Harikatha* or *Harikeertan* which means receiving the blessing of Lord Hari through stories tol

The Oral Tradition

(Singing out the story, keeping it alive)

o musical compositions. The *Harikatha*, incidentally, has many versions – each state and language having made it their own, with variations and styles.

If you remember some of your grandmom's tales – that of Prahalada listening to the scriptures that Lord Narada expounded even while in his mother's womb; or that of Luv-Kush singing out the story of their parents, the Ramayan, at their father Sri Ram's court at Ayodhya – you will realize that this oral story-telling tradition has been incorporated in the very tales that they tell.

A *Harikatha* narrative is very much like our Indian films – a story is quickly narrated, then there are bursts of song to give emphasis or colour to the narrative. There will be plenty of little stories within the main story, and sometimes, the story-teller gets really inventive and adds his own touches, sometimes humour, sometimes romance and sometimes even a fight! A *Harikatha* exponent is accompanied by other singers, there is a percussion instrument like a mridgangam, and cymbals to keep beat as well.

As a race, we Indians like plenty of action, colour and excitement. The tradition continues with the *Harikatha* on stage at auditoriums and *sabhas* instead of the village squares or within the confines of a temple as it used to be before.

And then, there has been the biggest adaptation of them all, thanks to the big screen that is cinema. Though most traditional oral story-telling styles are based on mythology, our cinema has gone one step further and created its own myths. That's perhaps why, Indian cinema is so different from its Western counterparts – our storytelling tradition gets reflected there with plenty of music, songs, drama and fights - a modern day Ramayan!

SANDHYA SRIDHAR

Gokulam - Filled

Dear Gokulam, I have been reading you from March and like the new competition 'Word Play'. I had lots of fun solving it. Thank you for publishing such a wonderful magazine.

–G.Amirtha Pooja, St.Mark's, Chennai

Gokulam is my favourite magazine. I have been reading it since August 2009. If I have to send an article to be published in October, when should it reach you?

–K.Santosh, Std.V, Atomic Energy Central School, Jaduguda

(Dear Santosh, the article needs to reach us atleast two months in advance. –Editor)

Dear Gokulam, you are fun as well as informative and encourage us to send contributions. The special issues have further added to your glory. Are we allowed to send our own fairytales for the 'Short Story' special?

–Arundhati.P.Kalyan, Std.VII, Our Own English HS, Dubai

(Dear Arundhati, you ar welcome to send stories in a genres. – Editor)

I love Gokulam. It is fantasti and provides us with lots of ne information. Can you please ad e-mail ids of all children in the 'F Buddy!' section?

–Suradha Iyer, Fr.Agn Multipurpose Schoo Navi Mumb

Dear Gokulam, I am a grea fan of yours. I like Sci-Galaxy an Grandmaworm. I wish Gokular was a weekly.

–S.Kailash, Ashok Naga Chenna

I am a new reader of Gokular and it is now my best frienc It contains lots of facts and th competitions 'Word Play' an 'Mathzlle' are very interesting Thank you Gokulam!

–T.Varatharajan, Std.XI V.M.HSS, Hosu

Hi, I think you are the mos wonderful magazine in the worlc You are an encyclopedia of fun an

knowledge.

'Learning is never a fuss,
when Gokulam teaches us!'

–Varsha.V, Std.VII, Vagdevi Vilas School, Bengalooru

Gokulam is my best friend. Reading it frees my mind from study related stress and tension. I was very happy to receive the first royalty of my life for my article published in Gokulam.

–Sreelakshmi.V.B, Sree Narayana Trusts Central School, Kollam

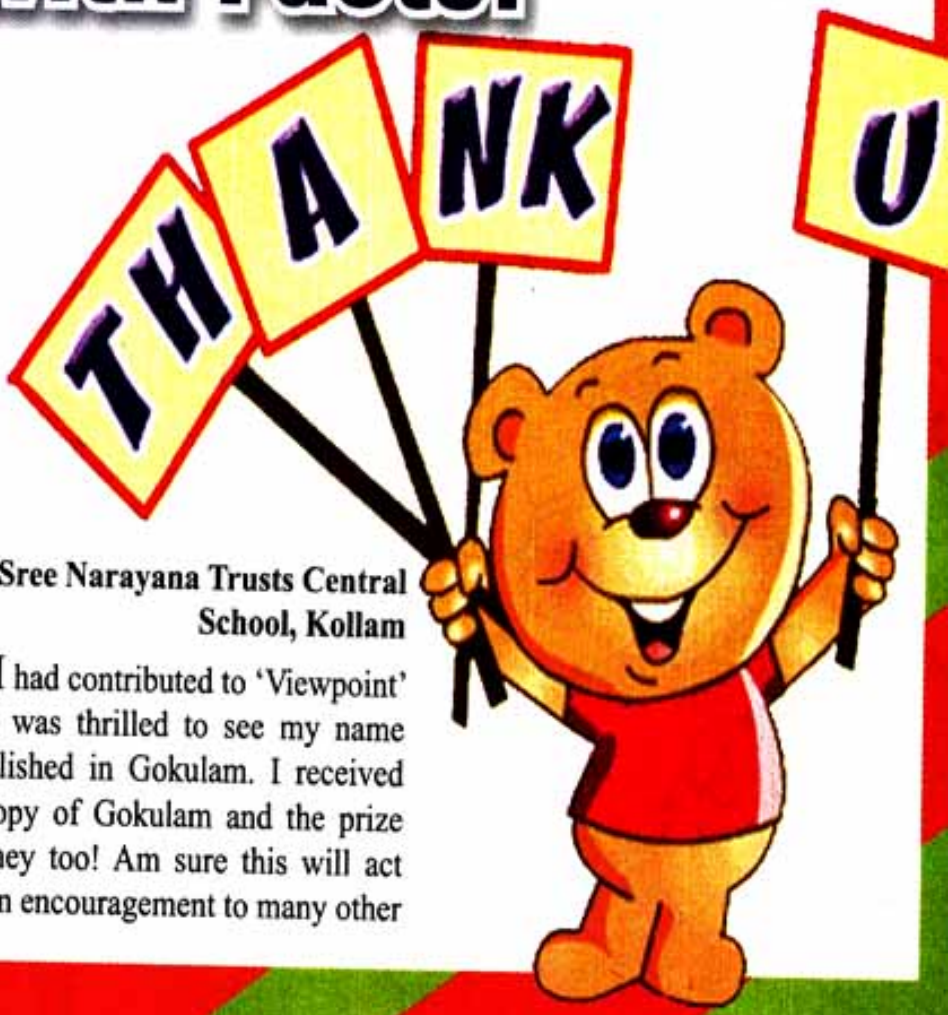
I had contributed to 'Viewpoint' and was thrilled to see my name published in Gokulam. I received a copy of Gokulam and the prize money too! Am sure this will act as an encouragement to many other contributors like me.

–S.Pranaav, Std.VIII, Carmel School, Bengalooru

I am a huge fan of Gokulam. We can improve our knowledge and English language skills by reading it regularly. It is the best magazine in the whole world. A huge round of applause to Gokulam!

–P.V.S.K.Chaitanya, Std.VI, DAV Public School, Hyderabad

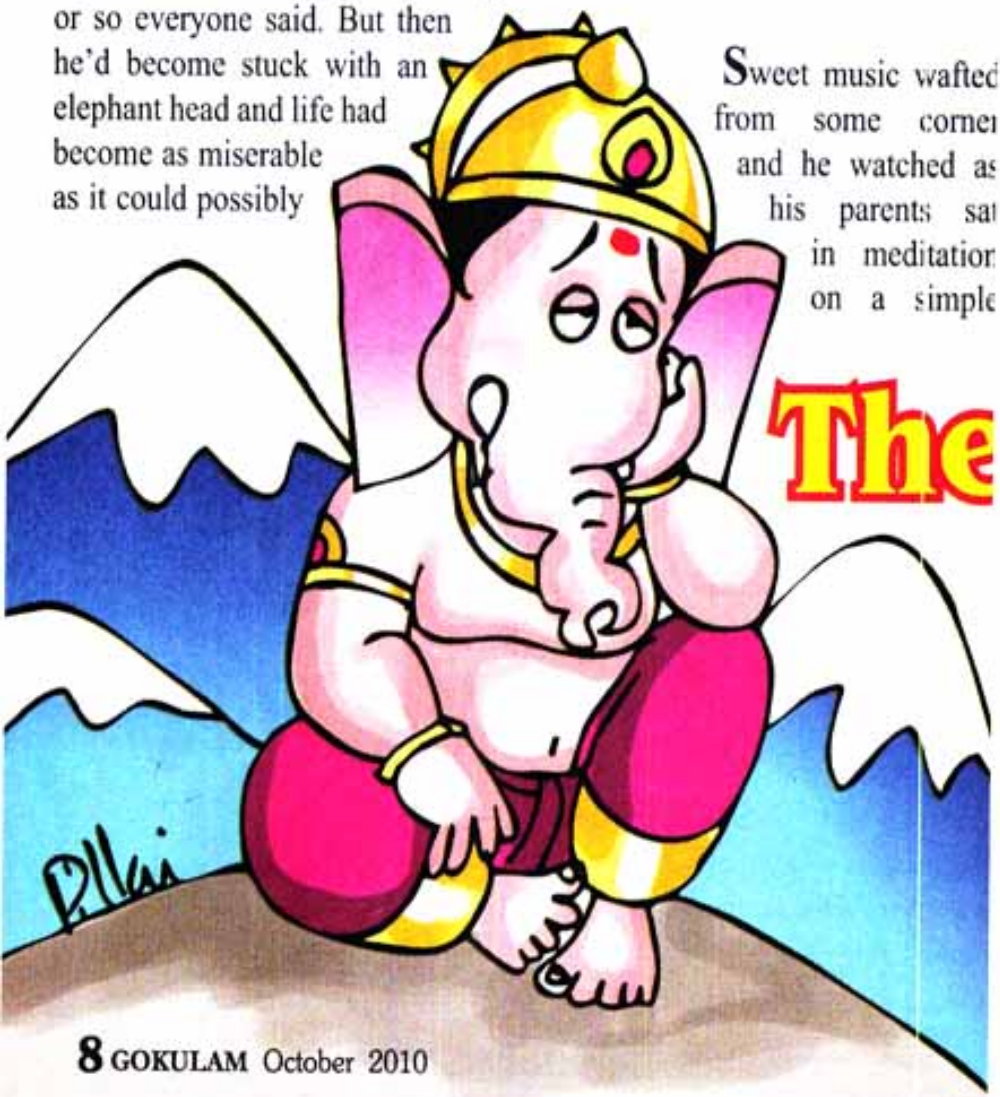
with Facts!



Ganesha was worried. And bored. But mostly worried. It wasn't supposed to be like this. He resided in a beautiful cloud-city, flanked by snow-clad mountains and crisp, fragrant breezes. Handsome *devas* were his friends; his parents were among the most feared and respected gods of the world. He had been born with powers – he could do anything, be anything. He touched his huge, flapping ears and sighed. He had been born normally, or so everyone said. But then he'd become stuck with an elephant head and life had become as miserable as it could possibly be, for someone with divine powers. No one in the celestial world could see him now without breaking into a grin. The *kinnaras* made new jokes about his pot-belly everyday (never mind that they had bellies to rival his). Add to that the fact that he was a child, still, among powerful gods – he was divine, technically, but had no real standing among his elders. It worried him. What was a god without something to be god of?

Sweet music wafted from some corner and he watched as his parents sat in meditation on a simple

The



stone pedestal. How serene they looked, how calm and collected. But they were stern, all the same; he couldn't go and talk to them on a whim. They were Shiva and Shakthi – Matter and Energy, that made up the entire universe. They loved him, he knew – but what was he when compared to them? He wandered away miserably to *Brahmaloka*, where the music was even more pronounced. He was a bit in awe of goddess Saraswathi, she who knew everything about everything in the universe. She was beautiful as well, dressed in flowing, pure white. Ganesha wondered how it was possible to be so learned and pretty at the same time. Lord Brahma, on the other hand, looked slightly harried. You

❖ **Short Story** ❖

Elephant-Head

had to be worried if you were in charge of all creation. Ganesha sat on a pink lotus for a while, strangely soothed by the divine work and gentle melodies. For a moment, he was envious. He would like to be as purposeful as this. But this didn't solve his problem. He wandered away again refusing to be baited by sage Narada who wanted to present him one of his eternal conundrums.

Without quite knowing how, he found himself at the gates of *Vaikunta* and stopped. The guards, Jaya and Vijaya let him in – which was a good sign. It meant that Lord Vishnu was willing to grant him an audience. There had been times when that hadn't been possible. Lord Vishnu took many avatars, and the audience he granted depended on the incarnation he was in, at that time. If he was reclined on his snake-bed, eyes closed, it meant he was guarding the universe, and could not be disturbed. At all. If he were Mohini, the time was spent in song and dance, and very little else. If he were Rama, serious discourses were the order of the day. Today, Ganesha was in luck. The snake-bed still rolled gently on milk-white waves – but it was Krishna who was seated on it, playing a merry tune on his flute.

Ganesha felt a load roll off his chest. Krishna was not like any god Ganesha had ever met. He could be serious one minute; laughing out

Pavithra Srinivasan

loud the next. He had no patience with false devotion, but a single *tulsi* leaf given with love and he was your friend for life. He was easy to talk to, as well. Today was no exception.

"Problems in paradise?" he asked genially, flicking some milk with his flute. Ganesha heaved a deep sigh. Krishna waved towards the snake bed, and Ganesha made himself comfortable on it.

"I don't think I'm a god," he said, finally.

Krishna raised his eyebrows. "You were born one."

"I don't feel like one," Ganesha protested. "Gods are supposed to be powerful, beautiful and confident. I'm none of those things."

Krishna eyed his nephew appraisingly. "Those are problems. Have you had them for long?"

"All my life," Ganesha sighed. "Look at my head. All the *devas* laugh at me. How can anyone take me seriously?"

Krishna pointed to Adiseshan, the snake-god, who had been following the conversation discreetly. "He's a snake. Do you think anyone belittles him for it?"

As if on cue, Adiseshan hissed. Ganesha shrugged. "He's powerful. Anyone who makes fun of him will get bitten."

"I don't bite without provocation," Adiseshan hissed gently. "I cannot abuse my powers that way."

"Really? But won't people take advantage of you, then?"

"Not if you let them know that you can't be played with," Krishna pointed out.

"Well, that's something everyone does," Ganesha sounded dismal. "They want to play with me. They pinch my cheeks, flap my ears and poke my belly! No one takes me seriously. They think I'm just a child."

Krishna smiled. "You know, I always thought of you as especially bright. But here you have the questions and answers yourself – and come to me for solutions."

Krishna pointed his flute downwards – and the milky sea parted instantly. Far below lay Earth, twinkling blue in space. Ganesha peered down. Everything seemed to zoom forward – and a picture became clear. "What do you see?"

It seemed to be a physician's hut. A young boy, not more than eleven years, lay on a pallet. A terrible bruise covered one half of his face. The room was littered with palm-leaves, flowers and fruits. Outside the dingy room, a middle-aged woman peered at him through a window, obviously miserable.

"The boy's been in an accident," Ganesha said, probing the boy's mind gently. "His face is disfigured. He's a good student and a great athlete. He has loving parents, but he is worried about his accident. He thinks no one will like him because he doesn't look as he used to."

"He has a point," Krishna said tranquilly.

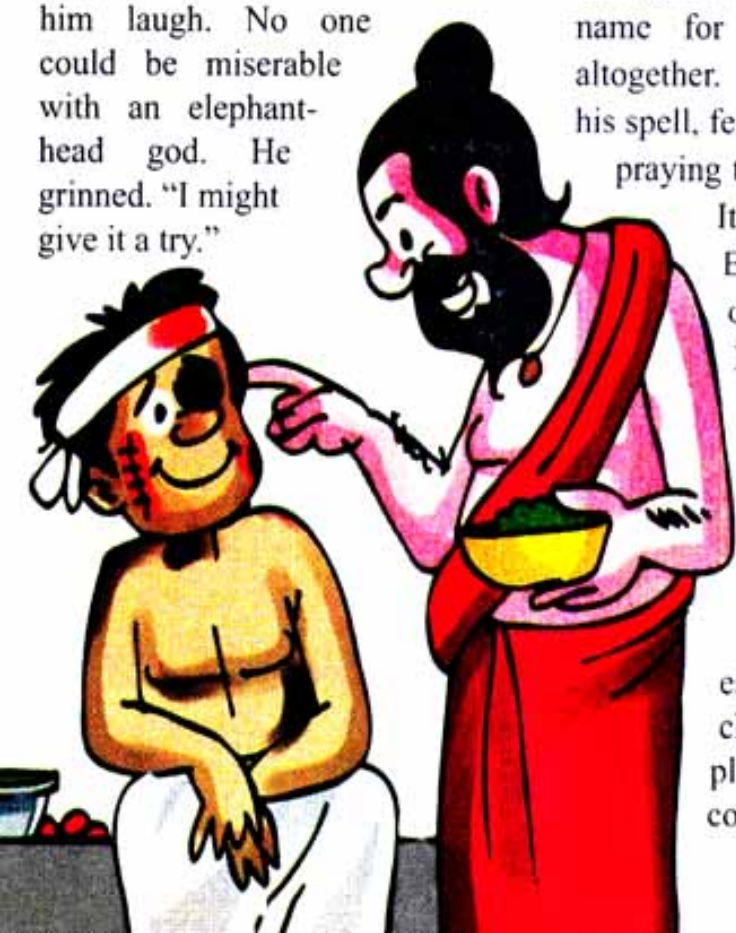
Ganesha's eyes widened. "How can you say that? Looks don't matter. It's what's in our heart that counts. You can be the handsomest person but you'd still be horrible if you were wicked –" he stopped suddenly.

Krishna was gazing at him with an unreadable expression. "You see it so clearly, don't you?" he murmured. "So why don't you do something about it?"

Ganesha gaped at him. "Me? Go down and do what?"

"What you are supposed to do," Krishna said gently. "People come to us for solace, little one. To show them the right path, to tell them that no matter what, we are there for them. Do you think you could do that for this lonely boy?"

Ganesha considered this. At the very least, he could make him laugh. No one could be miserable with an elephant-head god. He grinned. "I might give it a try."



"Excellent. And oh," Krishna waved a hand. A plate of modaks appeared – fresh, white and round. "Have one. I know you love a snack."

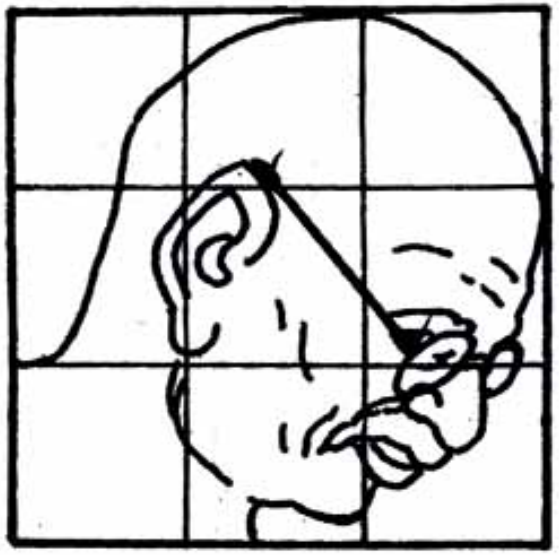
Ganesha considered the plate. "Consoling people takes a lot of energy," he sighed. "I might as well eat some." Before Krishna's amused eyes, the whole plate vanished.

And that was how Ganesha went from being a lonely little god to someone who could shake people out of their troubles. So successful was he at making them feel good that soon he earned a name for eradicating obstacles altogether. Even adults fell under his spell, feeding him coconuts and praying to him at street-corners. It became the talk of Earth, the heavens and other celestial worlds. Even the gods who had once mocked him said that if you prayed to Ganesha, the most difficult tasks went well.

Ganesha was always especially partial to children, though. And plates of modaks, of course!

Can you Draw?

Copy the picture of Gandhiji to the larger box on the right with the help of the squares.



- S. Vajravelu

Dear Grandma,

Many of my poems have been published in Gokulam. I would like to show them to my friends and teachers. But I'm afraid that they will think that I am fishing for compliments! What should I do?

- Kanishka Ganeriwal, Hyderabad

Dear Kanishka,

A true friend will not be jealous but proud of your achievement. A good teacher will feel happy that her student has written poems which have been accepted for publication. It is to be considered as a credit for the entire school. The teacher can cite you as an example and encourage other students too to write for Gokulam. After all, even if not accepted for publication, the effort is good exercise for the mind and that is what matters and not the end result. So, do inform your friends and teacher but don't brag about it! Make it casual.

When I study, I think about computer games and get

The Lure of

distracted. What should I do to get rid of this desire!

- A.Balamurali, Madanapalle

Dear Bala,

Don't be too strict and deny yourself computer games altogether. Play for half an hour every day. Have an alarm clock by your side and tear yourself away from the computer, when the alarm starts ringing. Get back to your studies. Remember, games are intended for relaxation. When you over- indulge, you are not the master, you become a slave! If you realise this, you will be able to control yourself and not become addicted. One more tip: games which give you physical exercise are much better for both mind and body than sitting games.

I want to earn a good name among my friends and relatives. How am I to go about it?

- P.Akshayaa, Mayiladuthurai

Dear Akshaya,

The answer is very simple. Just two words : keep smiling! Except when there is a specific reason for sorrow, your face should light up with a smile. It is the best ornament you can wear. When smiling becomes a habit, disappointment, frustration and anger weigh lightly and you can face them easily. When you talk with others or when others seek your help, be kind and pleasant. Even if you are unable to help owing to some genuine reason, say it politely. People around you will love you for your cheerful attitude and feel happy. A smile begets a smile and laughter is always reciprocated.

Computer Games!

My elder sister watches TV continuously. When I ask her to reduce the volume she shouts her refusal at me. As a result, I am unable to concentrate on my studies. What am I to do?

- M.H.Sanju, Mysore

Dear Sanju,

I should say that your sister is unreasonable. You are not objecting to her watching T.V. - you only want her to reduce the volume, which is a reasonable request. She must agree not only for your sake but also for the sake of other family members. Freedom should not be enjoyed at the cost of inconvenience to others. You can talk to your parents about this problem. Don't make it sound like a complaint. Instead, seek their advise on this important matter affecting your entire future. I'm sure they will understand and help you.

Is aeronautical engineering out of bounds for women? Is it very tough for ladies to handle?

- K.Ragha Darshini, Erode

Dear Ragha,

There is nothing in this world which is beyond the ability of women. What a man can do a woman can do equally well. When there are women astronauts reaching into outer space why should you have any doubt about their capacity to study aeronautical engineering? If you are really interested you must develop a strong body and will power. Healthy food and good exercise will help. Ofcourse, the course is not easy. Your success depends on your involvement and determination.

Love,
Grandmaworm

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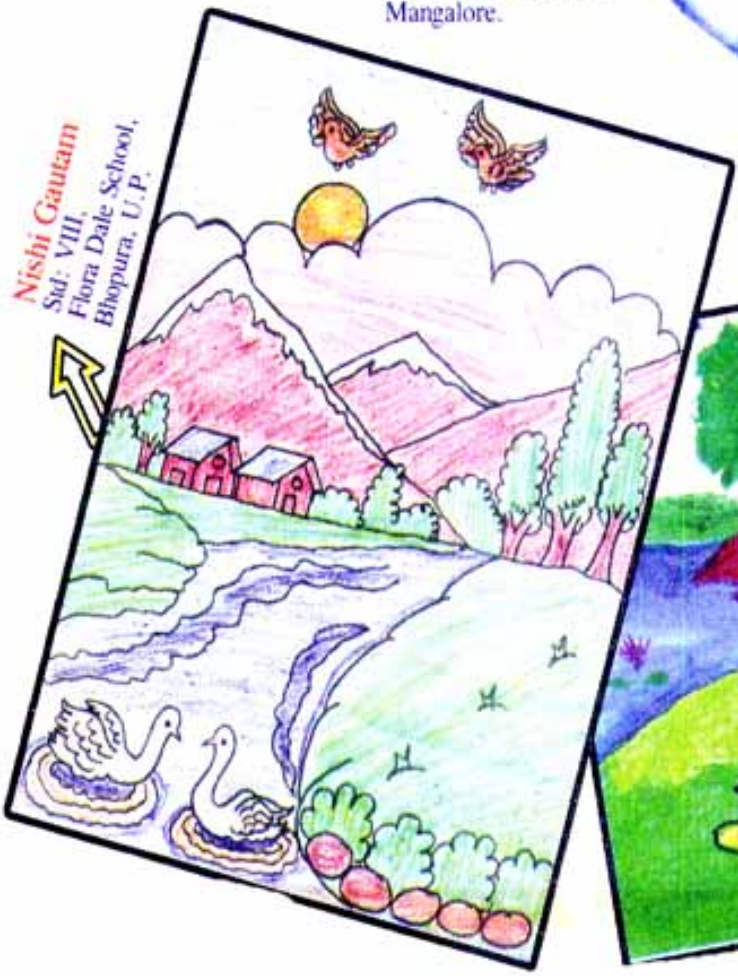

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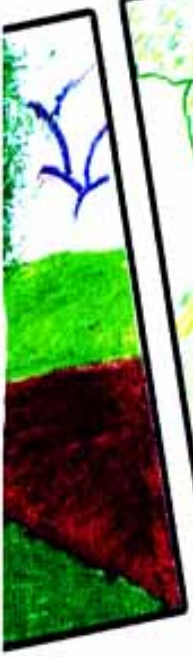
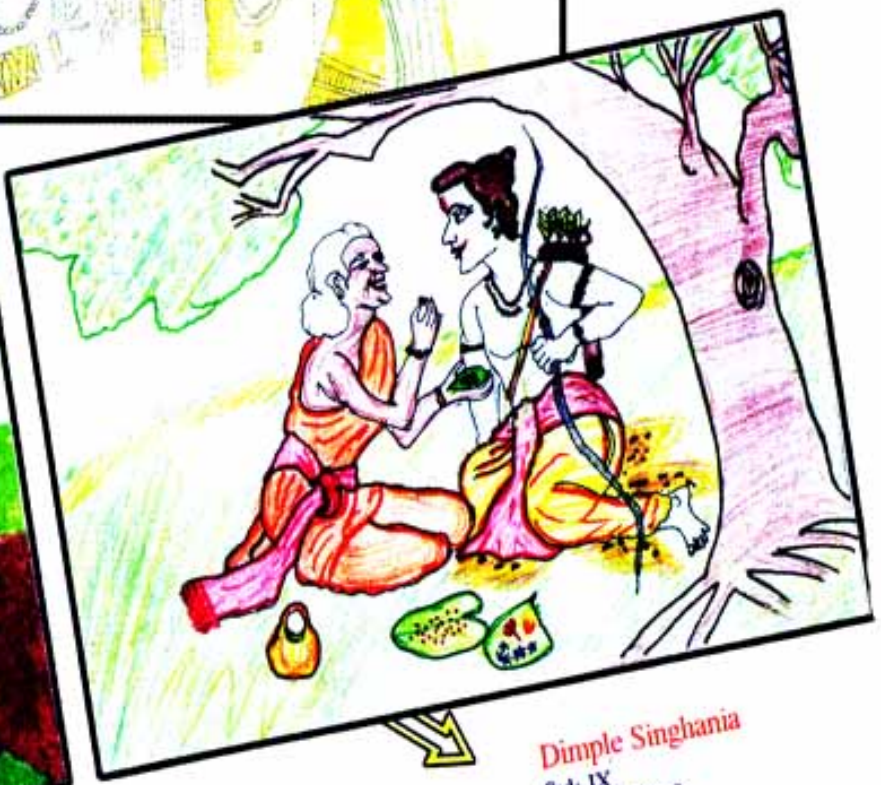




Dimple Singhania
Std: IX,
Cheran MHSS,
Karur.

TIME OUT!

He lifted his arms
"Mate soon!" he said,
As he locked his fingers
Behind his head.

He considered the move
He was soon to make,
That would end this game
And victory he'd take.

He arched his back,
Took a satisfied breath
Then looked at me
Like the spectre of death.

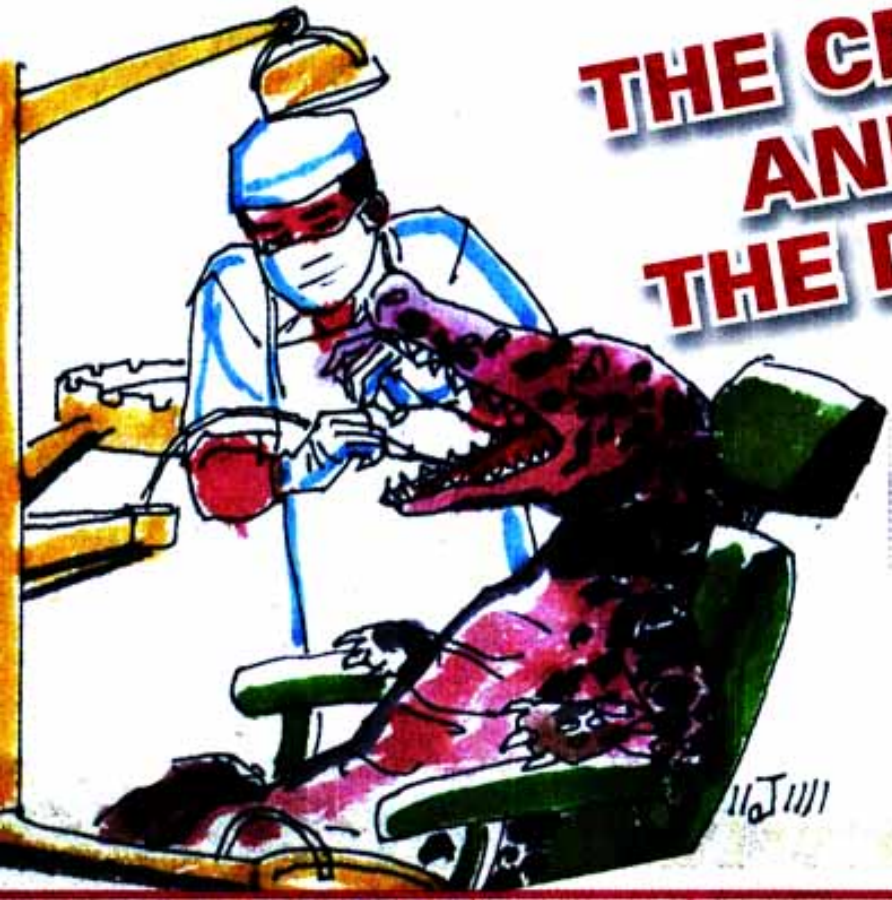
An impish smile
Stretched across his face,
And his eyes rolled back
In a pleased grimace.

"My rook goes here
And takes your queen,
My knight jumps to where
Your bishop has been!"

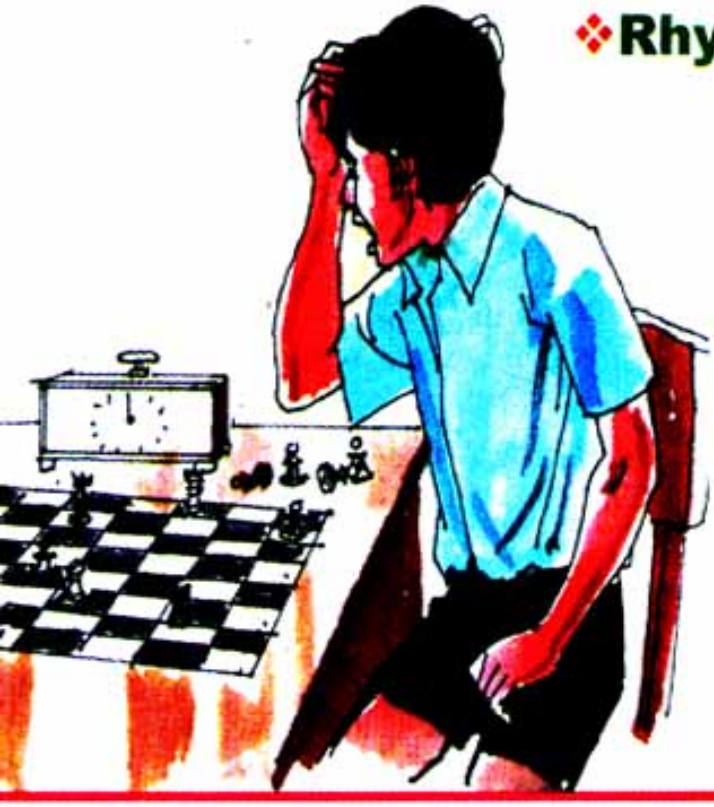
I studied the board
He was quite correct,
His analysis clear
Calculations perfect!

I racked my brain
For an escape route,

THE CROC AND THE DOC



❖Rhyme Time❖



A subtle move
That would bear fruit.

I looked up and down
And front and back,
That was when
I noticed his clock.

I cried in triumph
For I had won,
I pointed to his clock
"You are out of time!"

-Sudarshan Gopal,
Std.VII,
Apeejay School,
New Delhi

Mr. Crocodile once had a tooth ache
Oh! And what a fuss he did make,
He jumped up and down
With an ugly frown,
He ran round and round
At last a dentist was found!
So Dr. Frankenstein was called
Who was short and almost bald,
Mr. Crocodile cried, "My molar has an ache!
Oh, please have a look, for my sake."

The dentist took
At the molar, a quick look
And cried, "Oh, What a pity!
You have a cavity,
You've been eating sweets, that's a fact
So this calls for a tooth extract.
Just open your mouth wide
And close your eyes tight
Would you look up at the light?
Aaaaah……that's right."
So saying the foolish doctor bent low
Into a valley of deadly canines, oh no!
What happened next, you can all guess
Are you right? The answer is 'yes'!

-Arundhati P.Kalyan,
Std.VII, Our Own
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Age: 13

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Hobbies: Writing letters, reading books, playing cricket, listening to music and surfing the net

Name: **Meghna Murali**

Age: 9

Address: KNRA – 32, 'Sai Saranam', TC40/1351/8, Third Puthen Street, Manacaud Post, Thiruvananthapuram - 695009

Hobbies: Drawing, cycling, singing, making new friends, playing keyboard, chess and reading books.

Best Buddy

Name: **Azhagu Roopesh.M**

Age: 12

Address: C-201, Sanand Tower, ONGC Colony, Makarpura Road, Vadodara - 390009

Hobbies: Reading books, playing computer games, surfing the net, playing badminton and football, cycling, watching T.V., listening to music, drawing and making friends.

Name: **Nirmal Kumar**

Age: 11

Address: Bldg M, Room no.473, 3rd floor, B.P.T Colony, Station Road, Govandi, Mumbai - 400088

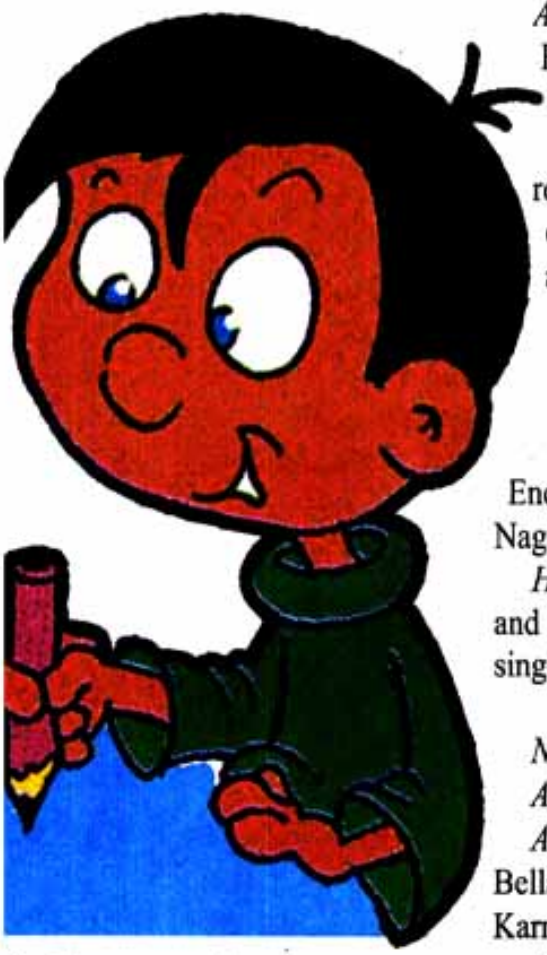
Hobbies: Reading story books, novels and magazines, watching T.V. and listening to music.

Name: **S.K.Vedhika**

Age: 16

Address: 2/168/1, L.R.N. Colony, Saradha College Road, Salem - 636007

Hobbies: Reading books, playing games, listening to songs, browsing the net and writing letters.



Name: **S.Gokul**

Age: 13

Address: 17/1, Darumar Koil Street, Annur, Tamilnadu - 641653

Hobbies: Playing computer games, watching T.V., listening to music, drawing, collecting stamps and coins.

❖Hi Buddy!❖

Name: **Subhodh.P**

Age: 14

Address: R.No.4061, Adilshahi House, Sainik School, Bijapur - 586109

Hobbies: Playing football, reading adventure novels, chatting on the net, horse riding and collecting pictures.

Name: **P.V.S.K.Chaitanya**

Age: 16

Address: Flat 101, Balaji Enclave, Street No.10, Gautam Nagar, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad

Hobbies: Reading storybooks and magazines, playing games and singing songs.

Name: **Aashik Narayan.M**

Age: 11

Address: M 1/6, JSW Township, Bellary District, Sandur Taluka, Karnataka - 583275

Hobbies: Playing badminton, surfing and writing stories.

Name: **Tulip Roy**

Age: 10

Address: 401, Sai Jyothi Apartment, Sector 12B Koper Kherane, Navi Mumbai-400701

Hobbies: Bharathanatyam, swimming, visiting new places and playing computer games.

❖Laughathon!❖

Ramesh: Hey! Did you receive my letter?

Suresh: No, but I don't think you had my address.

Ramesh: That's what I had asked for in my letter!

• • • • • • •

After robbing a bank,

1st thief: Come on, let us count the money.

2nd thief: No need to waste our time. We can find out by looking at the newspapers tomorrow!

-Kanishka Ganeriwal, Std.VII, Chaitanya Vidyalaya, Hyderabad

Teacher: Chetan, I have checked your home work. All your answers are correct but you need to improve your handwriting.

Chetan: Sure, Sir. I will pass on your advice to my father.

-Jitesh.R, Std.IX, Chinmaya Vidyalaya HS, Mysore

• • • • • • •

After returning from a foreign trip, little Santosh asks his grand mother – "Do I look like a foreigner?"

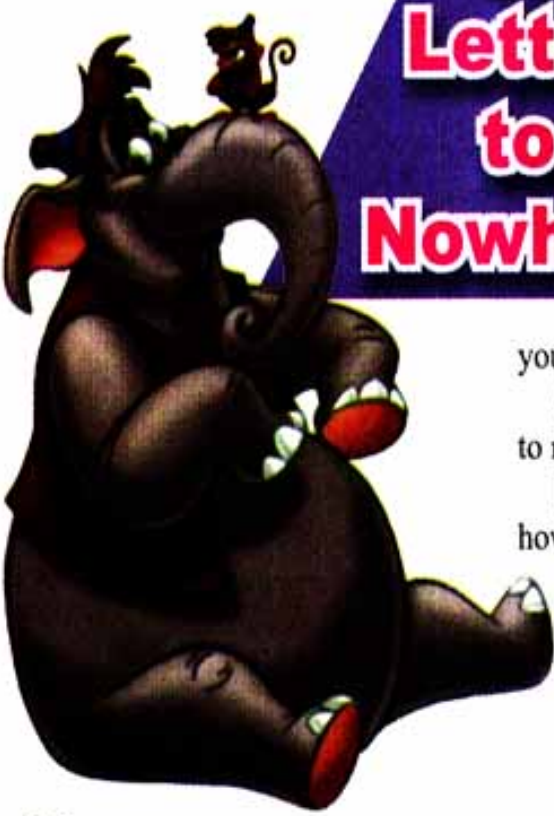
Grandmother: No! Why?

Santosh: When I was in London a lady asked me if I was a foreigner.

-Shreyans.S, Std.VIII, Shalom International HS, Panchgani

• • • • • • •

A Letter to Nowhere



Father: What are you doing, son?

Sumanth: I am writing a letter to my friend.

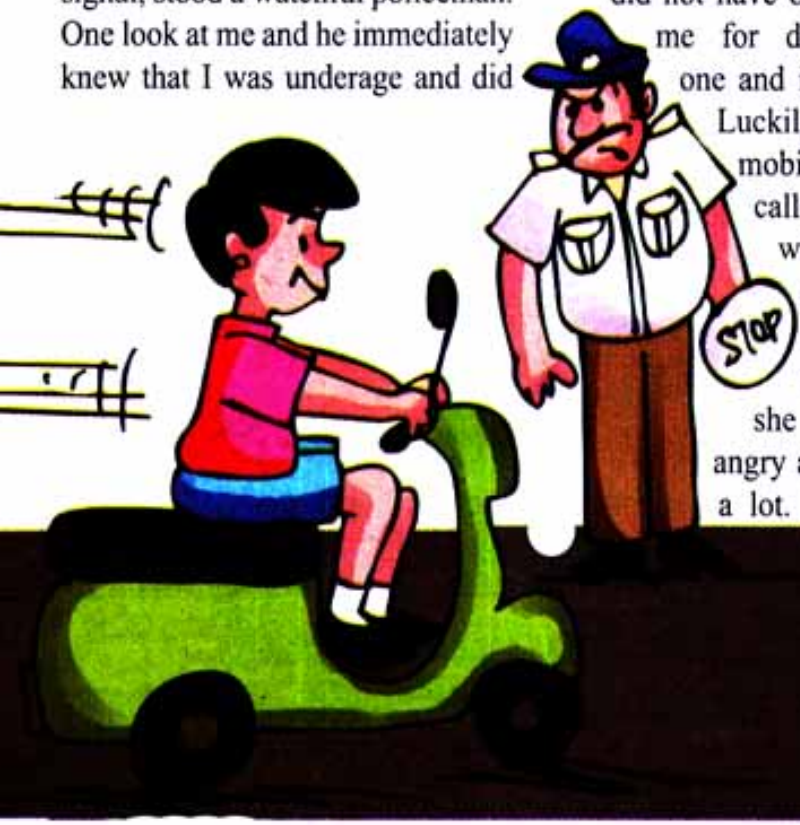
Father: But you don't know how to write.

Sumanth: So what? Neither does my friend know how to read!

-Tabreez Ahamed, Std.IX, Padua HS, Mangalore

Colour Up!
Ramki

My sister cleared her school finals with distinction and was gifted a scooty by our parents. I was really excited as we could go everywhere on our own. My sister used to drop me at school and also take me shopping on her two-wheeler. One day, I grabbed the scooty keys and sneaked out. The vehicle was parked in its usual place. I could drive a cycle very well and was certain of driving the scooty too. I started the scooty and rode out of my house. Driving it was not too difficult and I slowly gained confidence and covered quite a distance. Alas, just near the next signal, stood a watchful policeman. One look at me and he immediately knew that I was underage and did not have a license. He motioned me to the side of the road and asked me for the document. I got really scared and stuttered that I did not have one. He scolded me for driving without one and imposed a fine. Luckily, I had my mobile with me. I called my mother, who rushed to the spot and took care of the situation. But she too was very angry and scolded me a lot. I had learnt a



My

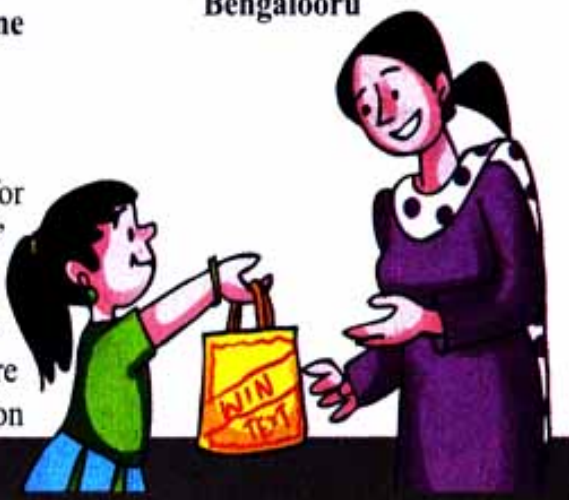
real lesson that day. I apologized and promised never to take out any vehicle till I reach the permissible age.

-Kistisagar Krishnamurthy Sharmaa, Std.IX, St.Vincent's HS, Pune

FUN CAMP

Our school had arranged for a three day 'Scouts and Guides' camp and I was selected for the same. We left for the campsite early in the morning and were greeted by warm showers on our arrival. After some rest and refreshments we were divided into patrols and given various tasks to perform. We stayed the night at the dormitory and it was fun sleeping with my camp mates. There were daily inspections of our uniforms, and general cleanliness too. We had a campfire at night and I performed a drama along with my friends. On the final day we all had to take a test. I cleared it successfully and received a certificate. Attending the camp was a good experience as it taught me to be independent and confident.

-R.Harini, Std.VII, Sri Vani Education Centre, Bengalooru

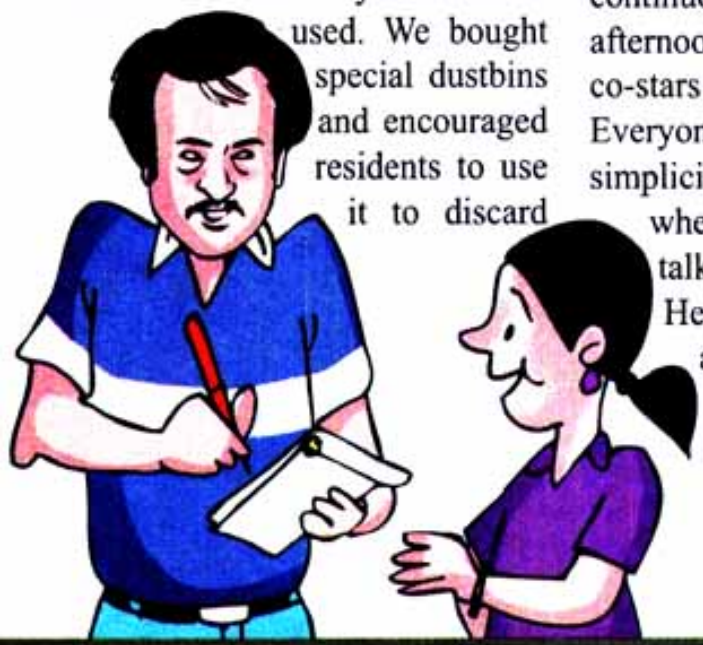


Driving 'Lesson'

WE CAN DO IT!

I live in an apartment complex in Delhi which houses a large number of flats. A group of children in our complex are involved in environmental activities. I too joined them and learnt a number of useful things. The group leader explained about the threat we were posing to nature and asked us to plant more trees, not to pluck flowers, and to avoid plastic bags at home. I also learnt to make paper bags. On World Environment Day we performed a dance and collected money from the audience. This money was given to a local nature activist who brought a lot of saplings and seeds and helped us to plant them near our complex. This activist also explained about how e-waste could be re-cycled and re-used. We bought special dustbins and encouraged residents to use it to discard all e-waste. I feel really happy that I am doing my best to make our earth a better, safe and clean place. I sincerely hope that all our readers too will contribute their bit towards preserving this world.

-Aakriti S.Ganesh, Std.VI,
BGS International Public School, New Delhi



THE SUPERSTAR!

The most unforgettable experience in my life was when I met the South Indian superstar 'Rajinikanth'. He had come to Thiruvananthapuram to shoot a song sequence for his forthcoming film. I, along with my parents, waited eagerly to catch a glimpse of my favourite actor. He shot continuously during the day. In the afternoon he had lunch with his co-stars at the shooting spot itself. Everyone was overwhelmed by his simplicity. It was a great moment when I had an opportunity to talk to him for a few seconds. He signed my autograph book, and I also took photos with him. I will remember this day forever.

-S.Priyadarshini,
Std.VI,
St.Mary's UPS School,
Thiruvananthapuram

Dear children,

Here we go once again… another rocking puzzle to tease your brain. Fill in the missing numbers in the grid below to complete the equations. Each row (left to right) and each column (top to bottom) is a math equation. You may use the numbers 1 through 9. Make sure you use each number only once.

Tip: Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Clue: There are no negative numbers inside the grid.

Name : .....

.....

Age : .....

Class : .....

School : .....

.....

*Residential Address : .....

.....

.....

.....

Pin .....

Signature : .....

	−		+		-4
×		×		×	
	+		−		7
÷		+		÷	
	−		+		2
4		68		2	

-Priya Ravi

**Local address is a must for overseas entries.*

- *Five all correct entries will get a reward of Rs* ***50/-*** *each.*
- *Last date for receipt of entries:* ***25.10.2010.***
- *Editor's decision is final.*

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,

47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

MATHZLLE -2 RESULT

9	÷	3	×	2	6
+		+		×	
6	÷	1	×	7	42
×		×		−	
8	×	5	÷	4	10
57		8		10	

Congratulations! Here are the winners of Mathzlle – 2 (August 2010) and the solutions as well. Winners have been selected by a lucky draw from out of all correct entries. The results of Mathzlle – 4 will be published in the December 2010 issue.

1) Lakshmi Sriram, Std.VIII, A.E.C.S, Kaiga, Karnataka

2) Tanvi Adithan, Std.IV, Henry Anderson School, Canada

3) Madhulika Sridhar, Std.X, Canossa Convent HS, Mumbai

4) Deepak Kumar Maharana, Std.XII, Govt. Jr. College, Rourkela

5) S.Abarna Kalyani, Std.X, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, New Delhi

Tongue Twisters

Butterfly flutterby.
Red rule, blue rule.
High roller, low roller.
Twenty tiny typewriters typed in tiny type.
Don't light a night light on a light night.

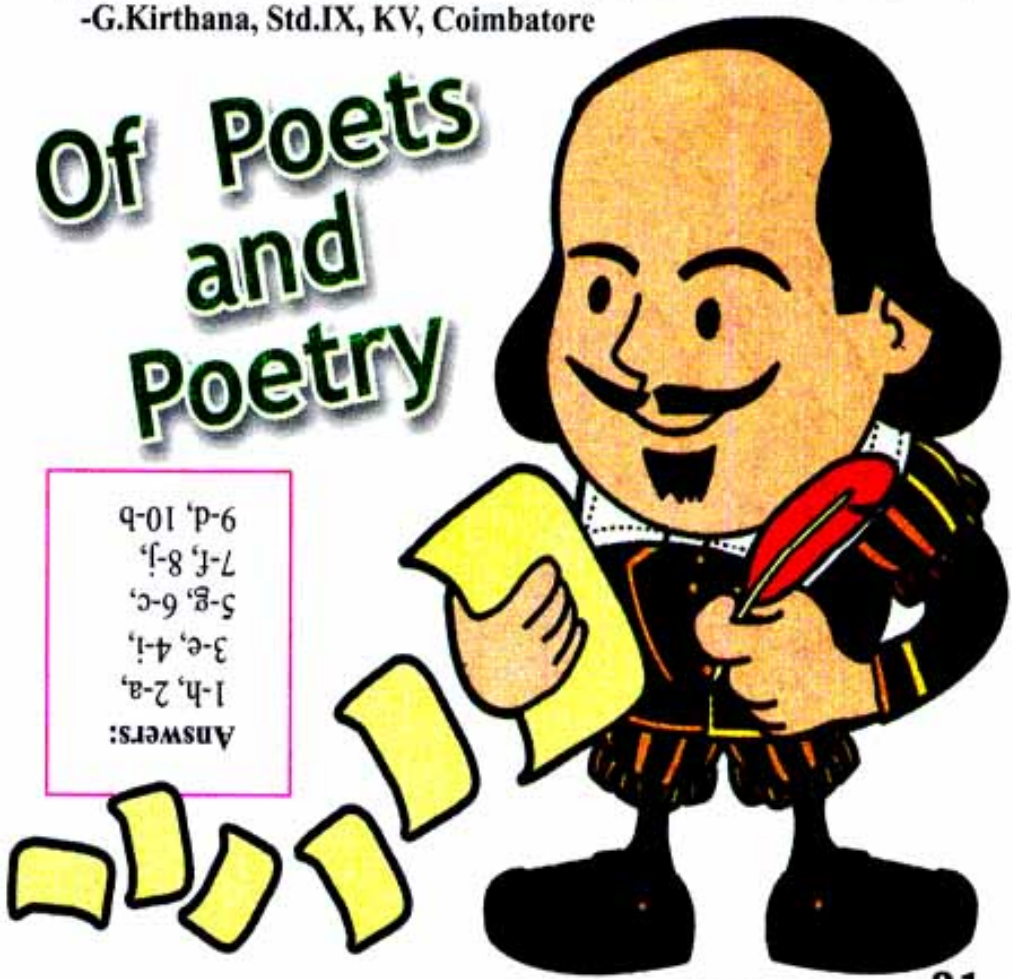
Compiled by: Tabreez Ahamed, Std.IX, Padua HS, Mangalore; Athmika Hebbar, Std.VI, JSPM'S Blossom Public School, Pune.

Given below are some well known poems. **❖Match Time❖**
Match them correctly with their poets.

1. The Solitary Reaper	a) William Blake
2. The Tiger	b) Oliver Goldsmith
3. The Lady of Shallot	c) John Keats
4. Lord Ullin's Daughter	d) William Thackeray
5. The Vagabond	e) Alfred Tennyson
6. Ode to a Nightingale	f) Thomas Hardy
7. The Last Chrysanthemum	g) R.L.Stevenson
8. The Village Blacksmith	h) William Wordsworth
9. The Pigtail	i) Thomas Campbell
10. An Elegy on the Death of a Mad Dog	j) Henry Longfellow

-G.Kirthana, Std.IX, KV, Coimbatore

Of Poets and Poetry

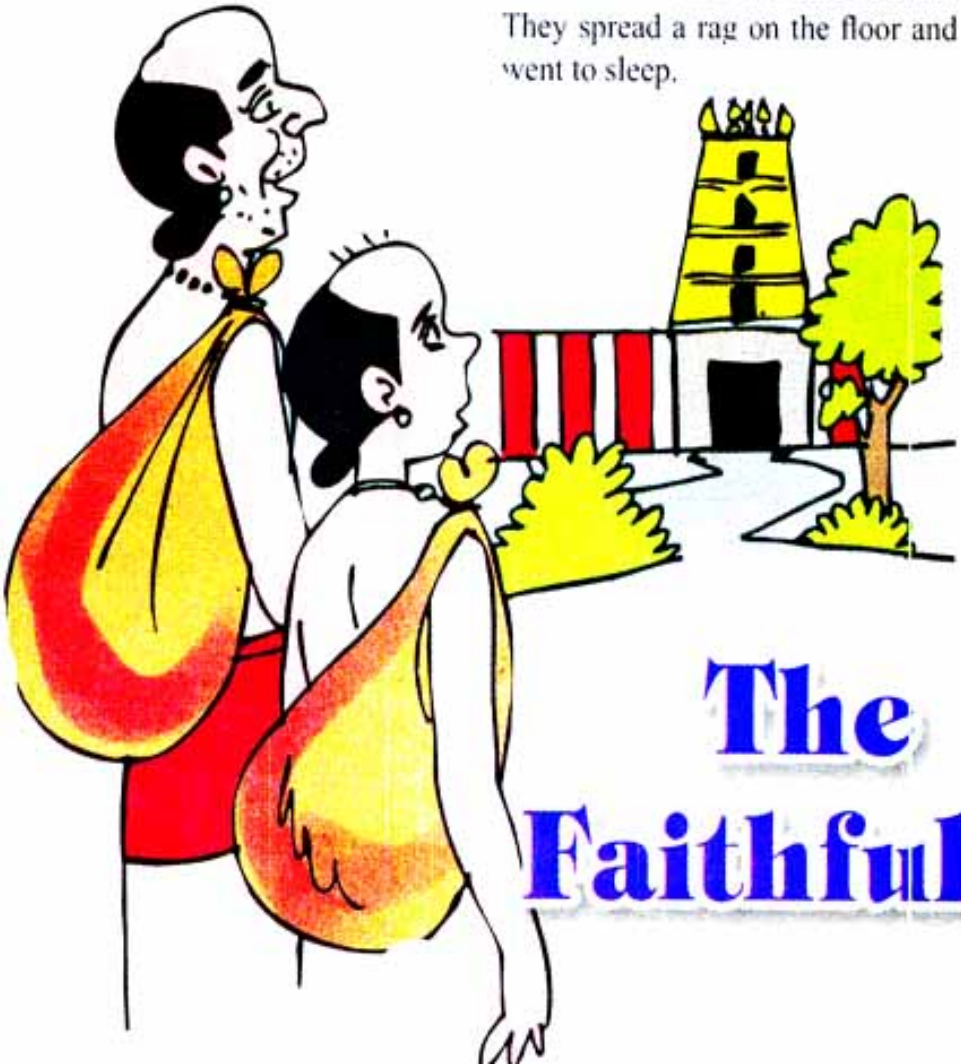


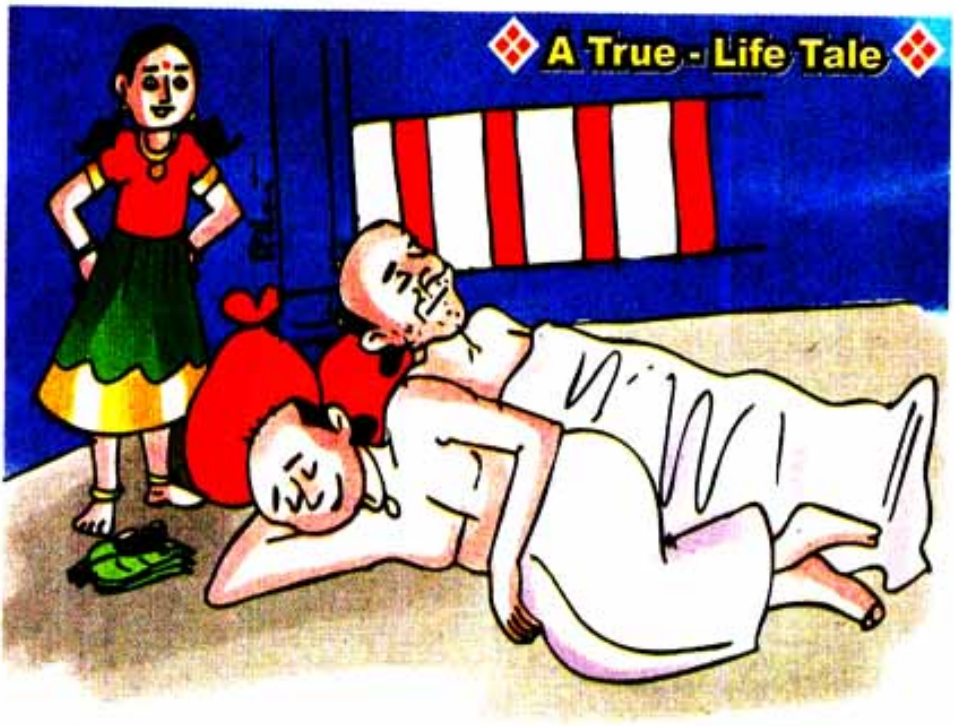
Answers:
1-h, 2-a,
3-e, 4-i,
5-g, 6-c,
7-f, 8-j,
9-d, 10-b

The Faithful

Long, long ago, there lived two men who were great devotees of Lord Krishna and his consort, Radha. They had immense faith in the gods and were always confident that they would be taken care of by their lord. They prayed sincerely and regularly. They were sure that their prayers would be answered.

Once, they had to go on a long journey. They had travelled for hours and were feeling extremely tired. Night fell and the wearied travellers reached a village. As it was quite late, the villagers had retired for the day. The gates of the *Dharmashala* (free rest house) were closed too. So, the two men decided to spend the night in the temple courtyard. They were very hungry but there was no one from whom they could ask for some food. But even in this state they did not grumble or complain. They prayed to their god and felt blessed to spend the night in the temple. They said in a humourous vien that they were the guests of the lord himself and that he would take care of them. They spread a rag on the floor and went to sleep.





The same night, the priest of the temple who was sleeping inside the temple complex, had a strange dream. The presiding deity of the temple appeared in his dream and told him that his guests were sleeping in the temple and that they were hungry. God asked the priest to wake up immediately and feed his guests properly. The startled priest woke up and rushed outside. He searched for the lord's guests and found these two devotees asleep in the temple courtyard. He took them inside and offered food which they ate gladly. He also gave them a room to sleep. The two men were very happy and lay down to sleep in their room. A little later, goddess Radha appeared in the form of a little girl in their dream and told them that the priest had forgotten to give them the customary after-dinner *paan* (betel leaf) and that she had brought it for them. The dream was so vivid that they woke up. And to their great amazement they found the betel leaf beside their pillow. Both the devotees shed tears of joy and thanked their god for taking care of all their needs!

Devotees!

-Auro Krishna,
Std.IX,
S.A.I.C.E School,
Pondicherry

A 'black cow' is a beverage that consists of scoops of ice cream in soda. This concoction is also called the "mud fizz"!

✱ The secret recipe of Coca Cola, code-named "Merchandise 7X" is kept under lock and key in a vault in the Sun Trust Bank Building in Atlanta, Georgia!

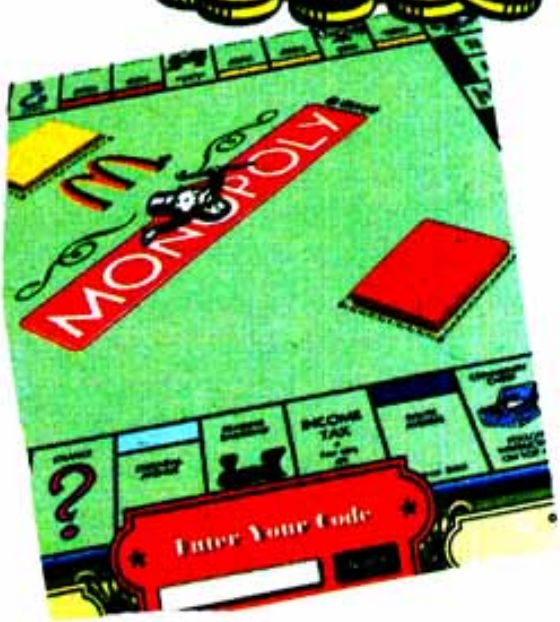
-Nanditha Ravindar,
Std. XII, Leo MHSS,
Chennai

Black

Even 24-karat gold is not pure as it has a little amount of copper in it. Real gold is so soft that it can be molded by bare hands.

✱ The first kind of pencil was a bunch of graphite sticks held together by a string.

-M.Harini, Std.X,
St.Francis Xavier's HSS,
Chennai



It is rumoured that more money is printed for the board game 'Monopoly' than the US treasury!

-Akanksha.P. Wadhavkar,
Std.IX,
Shantinagar HS,
Thane, Mumbai.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history: Spades - King David, Hearts - Charlemagne, Clubs - Alexander the Great, Diamond - Julius Caesar.

-Yuga Naik, Std.VIII,
St. Therese's High School,
Vasco-Da-Gama,
Goa

❖Did you Know?❖

* Most soccer players run 7 miles in a game.

* Before the 18th century there were no separately designed shoes for left and right feet.

Cow!

The sport with the most number of official – player ratio is tennis. There are thirteen officials for two players!

* In early days of film making, the people who worked on the sets were called 'movies' and the films were called 'motion pictures'.

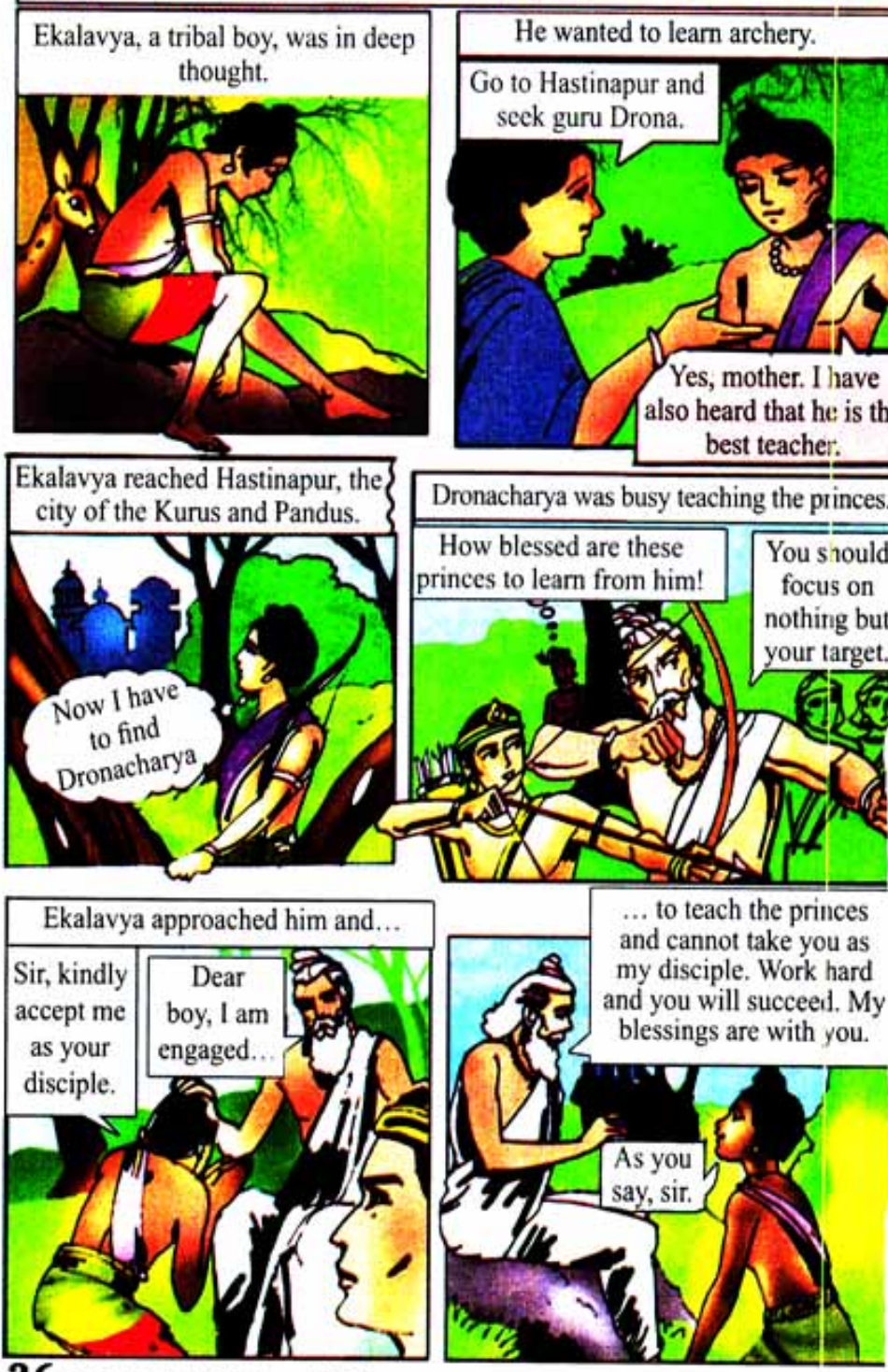
-Sushmitha.S.Dixith,
Std.X, S.V.E.P.H.S,
Bengalooru

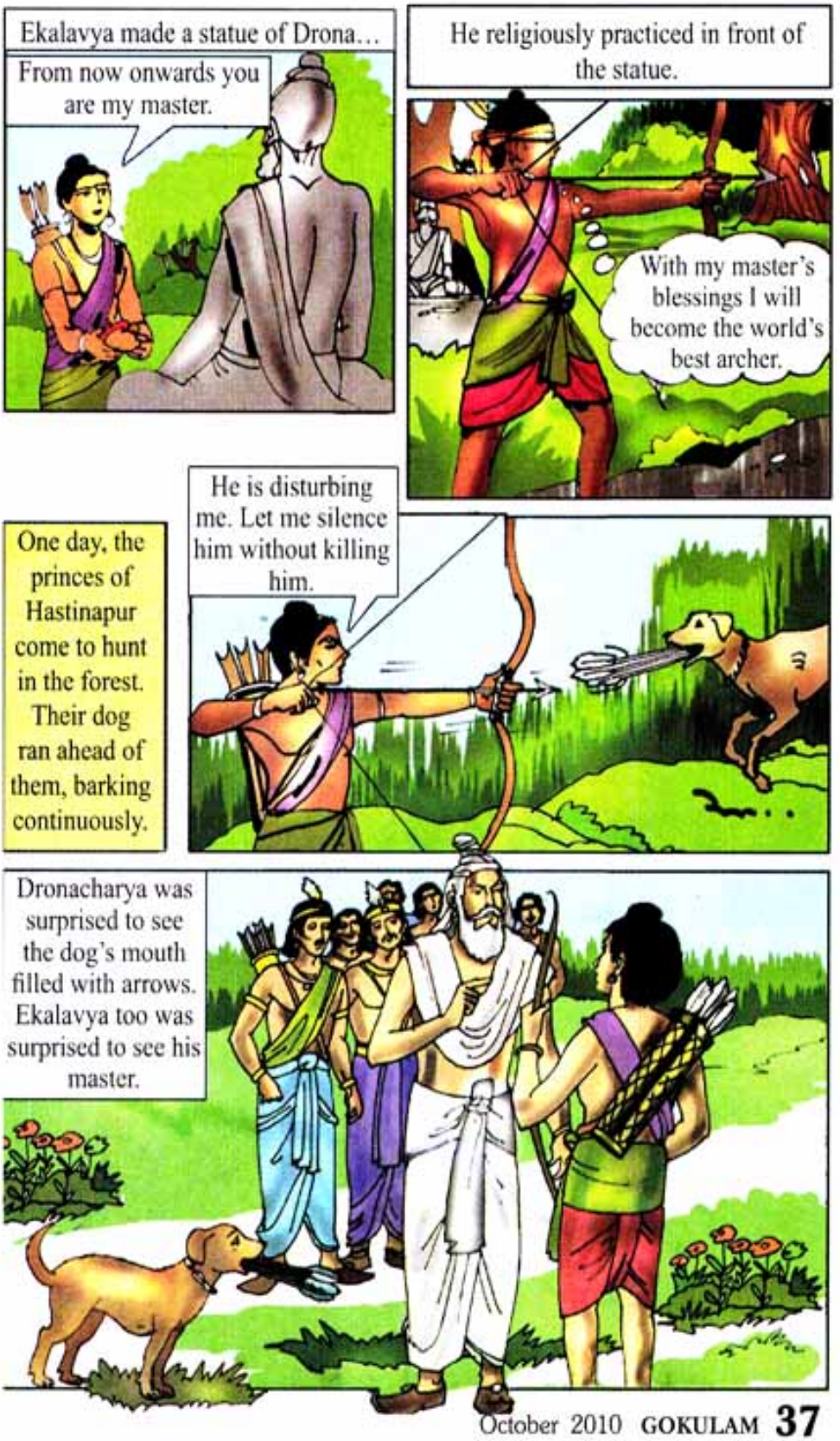
There is a museum wholly dedicated to strawberries in the town of Wepion, Belgium.

Keerthi Rajan.K, Std.VI,
Don Bosco MHSS,
Pondicherry

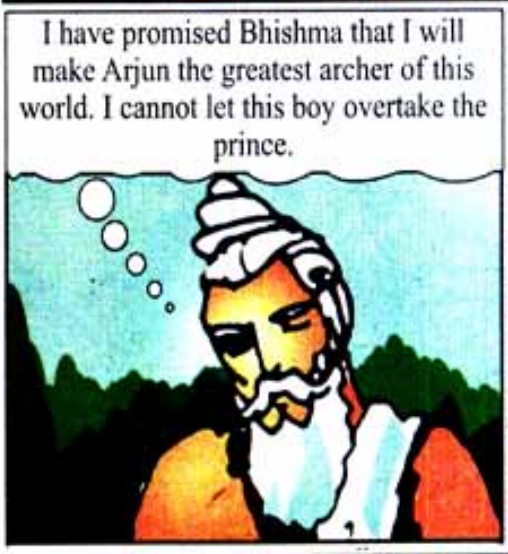
The Obedient Pupil

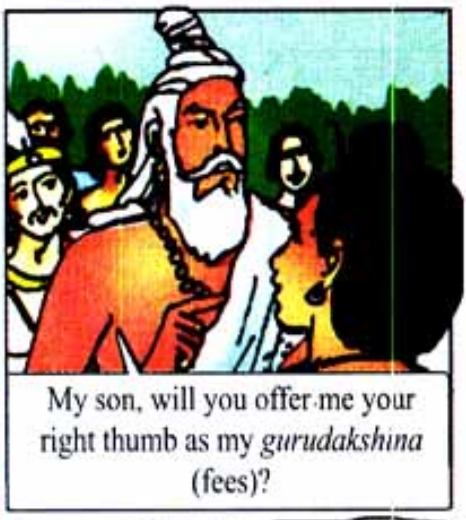
Story: Vaishnavi Rajesh, Std. VI, Amirta Vidhyalayam, Secunderabad. Artist: Lalitha

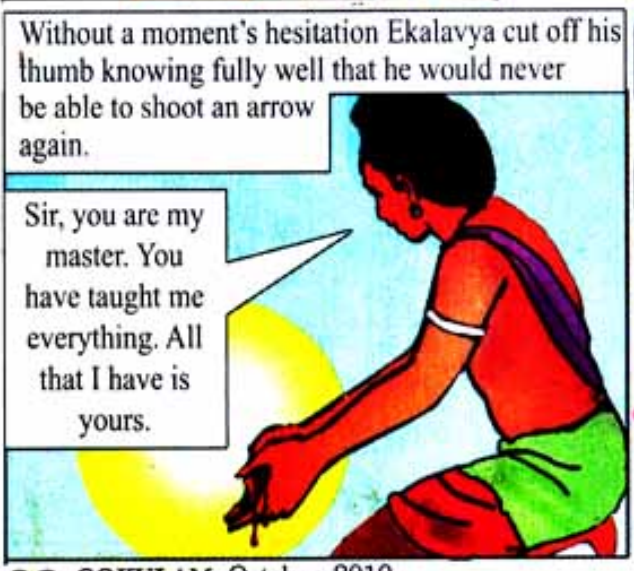



Ekalavya made a statue of Drona…
From now onwards you are my master.
He religiously practiced in front of the statue.
With my master's blessings I will become the world's best archer.
One day, the princes of Hastinapur come to hunt in the forest. Their dog ran ahead of them, barking continuously.
He is disturbing me. Let me silence him without killing him.
Dronacharya was surprised to see the dog's mouth filled with arrows. Ekalavya too was surprised to see his master.

Master, I am Ekalavya, your disciple. With your blessings I have mastered archery.
Hmm..he is truly a great archer. No one else can shoot seven arrows into a dog's mouth


I have promised Bhishma that I will make Arjun the greatest archer of this world. I cannot let this boy overtake the prince.


My son, will you offer me your right thumb as my *gurudakshina* (fees)?


Without a moment's hesitation Ekalavya cut off his thumb knowing fully well that he would never be able to shoot an arrow again.
Sir, you are my master. You have taught me everything. All that I have is yours.

And till today Ekalavya is looked upon as a model pupil who gave up fame and glory for his master.

Fun & Joy

❖Happy Birthday❖

My dear sister **Subhra Mishra** celebrates her 4th birthday on the 22nd of October. We wish her a very happy birthday.

Best Wishes from **sister Sarmistha, parents, granny and kaku**

S.Sneha celebrates her 12th birthday on the 10th of October. We wish her a very happy birthday.

Best Wishes from **Sunanda and Chandreka**

M.Ajith celebrates his 15th birthday on the 21st of October. We wish him success all through his life.

Best Wishes from **father Muthukumaran, mother Nirmala and sister Aarthi**

C.Arjun celebrates his 12th birthday on the 30th of October. We wish him a healthy and happy future.

Best Wishes from **father Chandrasekar, mother Shammi and brother Arun**

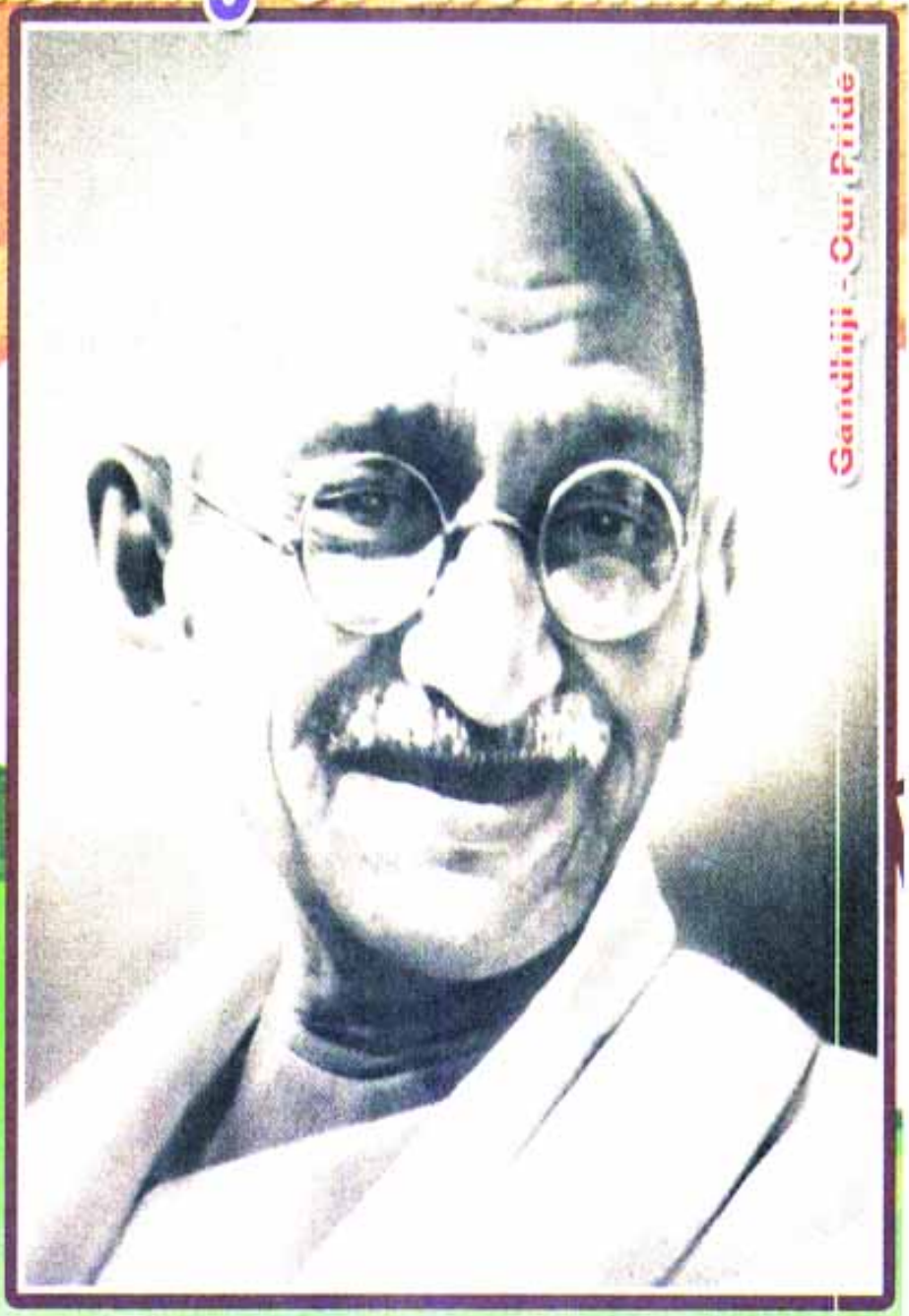
Sri Vishnu celebrates his 11th birthday on the 25th of October. We wish him great success and a prosperous future.

Best Wishes from **father Suresh, mother Vasantha and sister Nivetha**

Our daughter **S.Sruthi** celebrates her 10th birthday on the 24th of October. We wish her success in her life.

Best Wishes from **parents Sudev and Sreelatha**

Making of the Mahatma



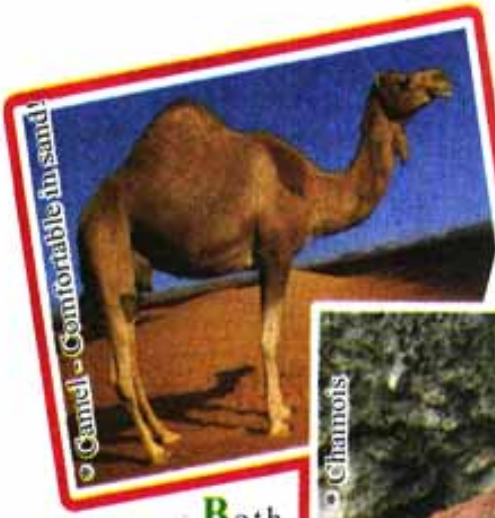
GOKULAM

POSTER

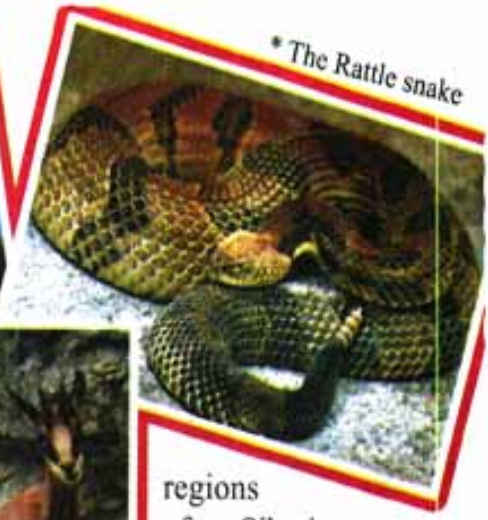
As a little boy

With Kasturbai

With Nehru



• Camel - Comfortable in sand!



* The Rattle snake

• Chamois

Hardy

Both male and female platypus have spurs on their back legs for self-defense but only the male produces venom. It is not lethal to humans but is extremely painful and its effect could last for months!

Rattle snakes use their rattle as a warning device when threatened. However, new born snakes do not have rattles until they have shed their skin for the first time.

The skins of sharks are made up of tiny teeth called dermal denticles. These dermal teeth help them by reducing turbulence while swimming in deep waters!

-Fabian Lenin, Std.VI, Bell MHSS, Tirunelveli

The husky dogs are among the hardiest animals. Found in the cold regions of Siberia, Alaska and Greenland, they have thick coats which protect them from extreme cold. They are valued for their strength and endurance. A team of twelve dogs can pull a sledge with eight people and their luggage.

The fastest mountain climber is the chamois, a mountain goat, found in the European Alps, Carpathian range and New Zealand. It takes them a mere fifteen minutes to climb 1000 mts. At this pace they can reach the summit of Mt.Everest in just over two hours!

-M.Manjari, Bharathi Vidya Bhavan MHSS, Erode

Huskies!

Our feet are designed for walking on hard surface. It would be very difficult for us to walk on soft surfaces like sand, snow or mud as our feet would sink in them. This is because while walking, the weight of our body is effectively carried by only one foot. Because of the small surface area of the foot, the weight falling per unit area is quite high and as a result our feet sink into the surface if it is soft. In contrast, camels have four feet and at least two of them remain on ground while they walk. They also have soft, cushion - like board pads at the bottom of their feet which spread out creating a large surface. Their body weight is thus distributed over a reasonably large surface area, which prevents their feet from sinking in sand.

-Saijyothi Ghayal, Bharathi Vidya Bhavan, Hyderabad.

Queen Alexandra's Birdwing is the largest butterfly in the world. This species was named in honour of Queen Alexandra, wife of King Edward VII of the United Kingdom. They are found in the forests of Papua New Guinea. The female can reach a wingspan of 31 cm, a body length of 8 cm and a body mass of up to 12 grams - all enormous measurements for a butterfly.

-T.Krishna Kumari, Std.X, Atomic Energy Central School, Ganjam

Queen Alexandra's Birdwing

Platypus

The Husky

In ancient India there lived a king, Dasharatha, who ruled over the kingdom of Ayodhya. He was a very strong, noble and just king. He was also a great warrior and a skillful archer. He had mastered '*shabdabhedi*', the art of shooting arrows at a target just by listening to its sound. Once, while hunting in the forest, he gave chase to an animal. After some time he lost track of it and came near a grove. The tired king sat under a tree to take some rest. Suddenly he heard a sound coming from beyond the grove, the sound of an animal drinking water from a nearby lake. Dasharatha got up and tried to locate his target but could not as the lake was hidden from his view.

Young Dasharatha decided to use '*shabdabhedi*'. He took out his bow and arrow, and guided by the sound, took aim carefully. He shot the arrow and it found its target unerringly. A loud, piercing cry rent the air – not the cry of an animal, but a human being. A terrible thing had happened; Dasharatha had shot at a man, not an animal! With a trembling heart he rushed to the spot and found a boy lying wounded by his arrow. In despair, the king immediately sat down beside him, and placing his head on his lap, asked him gently, "Who are you, young man? And what are you doing in the forest?" The man replied with great difficulty, "I am Shravan Kumar. My parents are old and blind too. They depend on me for their every need. I was collecting water from this lake for them when your arrow hit me. Please take me to them."

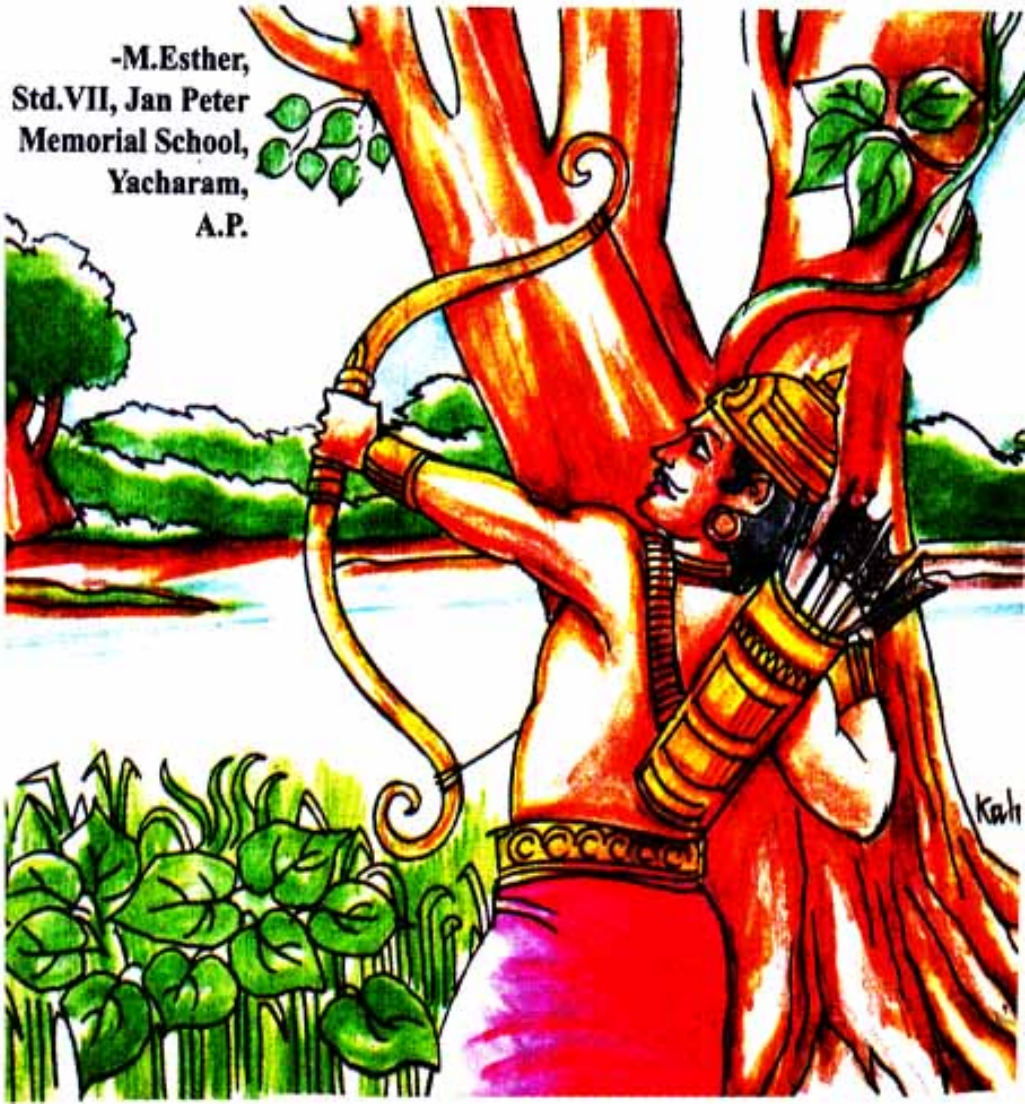
Dasharatha lifted Shravan Kumar and started carrying him to his parents but he died on the way. The broken hearted king took the body to his parents. They immediately

The Curse!

guessed that something had gone wrong. "Where is my son? What happened to him?" questioned the old man. Dasharatha narrated the whole episode and begged forgiveness for his act. Shravan Kumar's mother, on hearing the news of her son's death, fell down dead. "Oh, great king, you killed our son for no reason. You have committed the grave sin of separating a son from his parents. Shravan's mother could not bear the shock and died. I too no longer desire to live in this world without my son. You will have to pay for this. You will also breathe your last, experiencing the same pain and agony which I am undergoing now. Your beloved son will not be with you at the time of your death," cursed the old man and died.

This curse came true years later when Dasharatha died pining for his son, Ram, who was exiled to the forest.

-M.Esther,
Std.VII, Jan Peter Memorial School,
Yacharam,
A.P.



Summer is long gone and winter is knocking at our doors - time to bid goodbye to ice-creams and cold drinks, and snack on something hot and spicy. Time to try out these two simple and tasty recipes sent in by our readers, and we are sure your family and friends will appreciate this 'warm' gesture!

TANGY TOMATO SOUP

Ingredients:

Tomato – 6 nos.
Onion – 2 nos.
Garlic – 1 (small)
Water – 3 cups
Corn flour powder – 4 tbsp
Clove – 3 nos.
Pepper powder – As per taste
Salt – As per taste
Coriander leaves

Hot &

Method: Peel the onions and garlic. Boil water in a pan and add the tomatoes, onion, garlic and clove. After the ingredients are boiled, switch off the stove and allow it to cool. Remove the skin of the tomatoes. Place them all in a mixer and blend into a fine paste. Transfer the paste to the pan and add corn flour. Stir well and bring it to a boil once again. If the consistency is too thick, you may pour one more cup of water. Serve into soup bowls. Sprinkle salt and pepper, and garnish with coriander

leaves. You can also make the sweet corn rolls (our second recipe) to serve along with the soup!

-Rashmi.K,
Std.IX,
Nuthan Eng. HS,
Ajjampura,
Chikmagalur

Tasty...

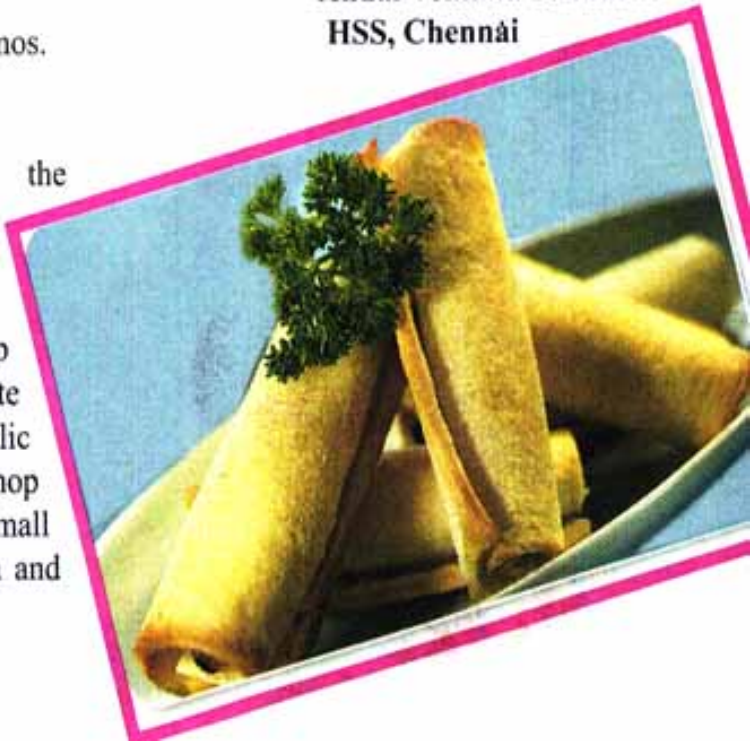
SWEET CORN ROLLS

Ingredients:

Sweet corn – 1 cup
Potato – 2 nos.
Onion – 2 nos.
Ginger – 1 small piece
Garlic – 2 nos.
Green chilly – 2 nos.
Maida – 2 cups
Salt – As per taste
Curry leaves – 7/8 nos.
Oil – To fry

Method: Boil the potatoes and sweet corn. Peel the potatoes, mash them and keep aside. Make a paste of ginger, garlic and chillies. Chop the onion into small pieces. Take a pan and add some oil. Sauté the onions along with the ginger garlic paste and add the mashed potatoes and sweet corn. Add salt and mix well. Make a thick batter of maida and water. Make rolls of the vegetable mixture, dip it in the maida batter and deep fry in oil till golden brown. Serve hot with tomato sauce.

-Malini.D.Kartika, Std.XI, Lady Andal Venkata Subbarao HSS, Chennai

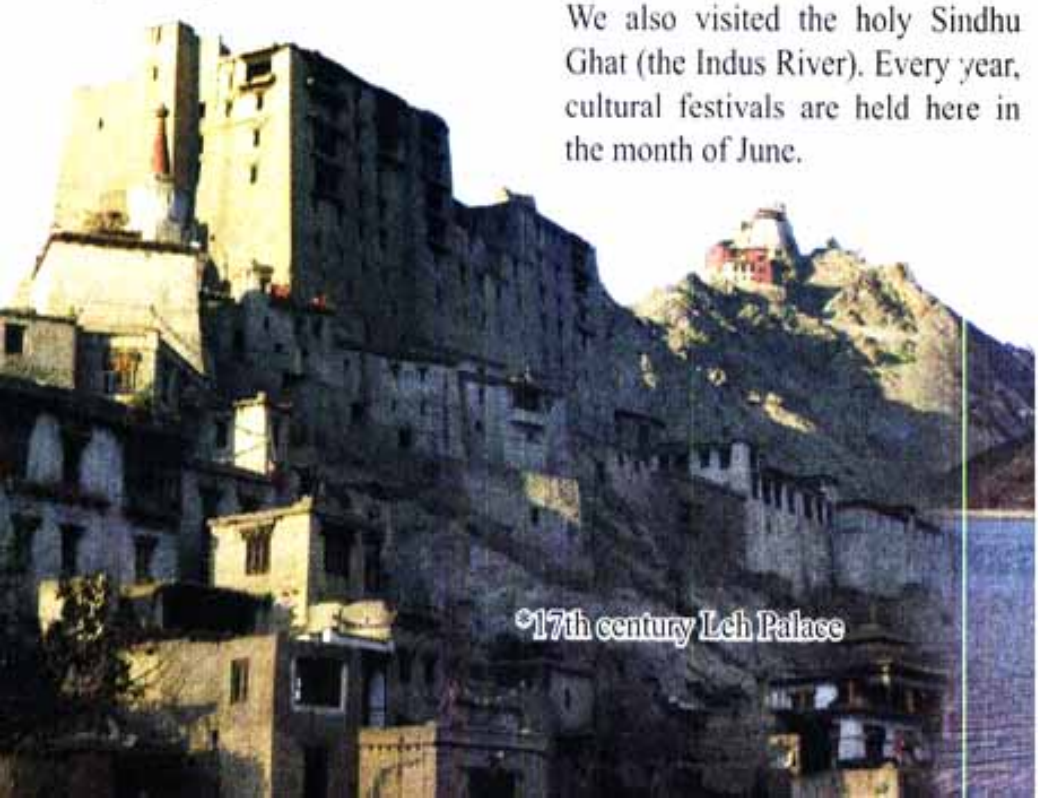


Enchanting

Last summer we visited Ladakh, located in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Bound by the Karakoram in the north and the Himalayas in the south, this snow covered mountainous cold desert is located at a high altitude of over 9,800 ft. Tourists who enter Leh, the capital city, are advised to take rest for atleast 36 hours immediately after arrival. This is to acclimatize their bodies to the atmosphere here which has lower oxygen levels.

After taking rest for the first two days, we hired a taxi and went sightseeing. We visited the 17th century Leh Palace built by King Singe Nangyal. Next, we went to the Shey Palace which houses a three storey high statue of Buddha. Buddhism is the main religion here and there are a number of beautiful monasteries in and around Leh.

The Great Thiksay monastery is the largest in Ladakh and houses a number of ancient and precious objects used by the kings and monks of this region. One of the must-visit places in Leh is the Hemis monastery where there is a huge, gold plated statue of Lord Buddha. We also visited the holy Sindhu Ghat (the Indus River). Every year, cultural festivals are held here in the month of June.



*17th century Leh Palace

Ladakh

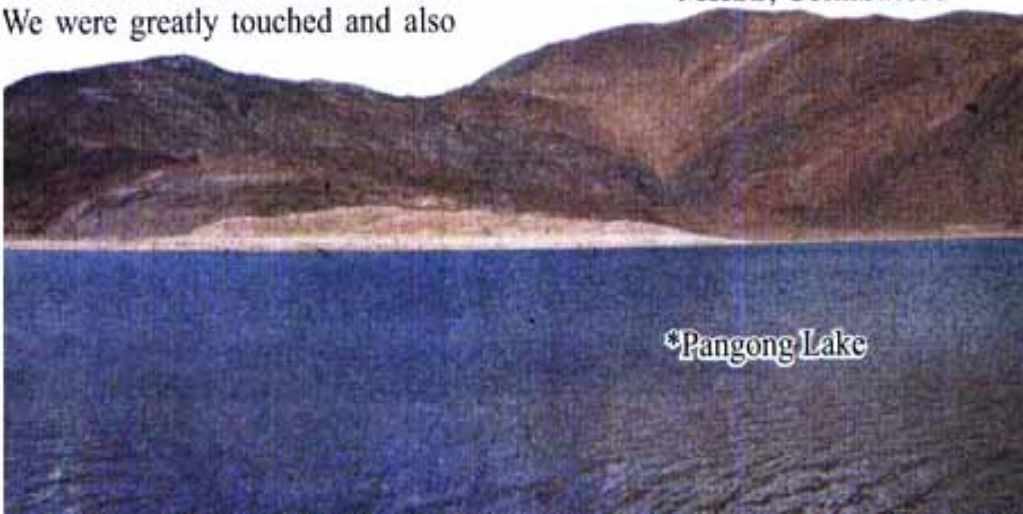
The next day we went to have a look at the lakes in this region. The most important of them is the Pangong lake. About 130 kms long, this lake is of strategic importance as it lies between India and China. Boating is not allowed here due to security reasons. This beautiful lake freezes completely in the winter. Enroute, we also saw the snow covered Changla Pass, where our Indian Army jawans offered complimentary tea to all visitors. We also saw a number of native animals and birds like the Tibetan wild ass, bar headed goose, black necked crane, great crested grebe and brahminy ducks.

On the penultimate leg of our trip, we went to Srinagar by road, via Kargil and Jojilla Pass. It took us nearly ten hours to reach Kargil. We were greatly touched and also inspired by the memorials of our soldiers who laid down their lives for their country in the Kargil War. After spending the night there we started Srinagar the next morning. We went shopping in this picturesque city and bought shawls, dry fruits and cricket bats.

*Buddha, Thiksay Monastery

It was a memorable trip. I learnt how beautiful, vast and varied our country is!

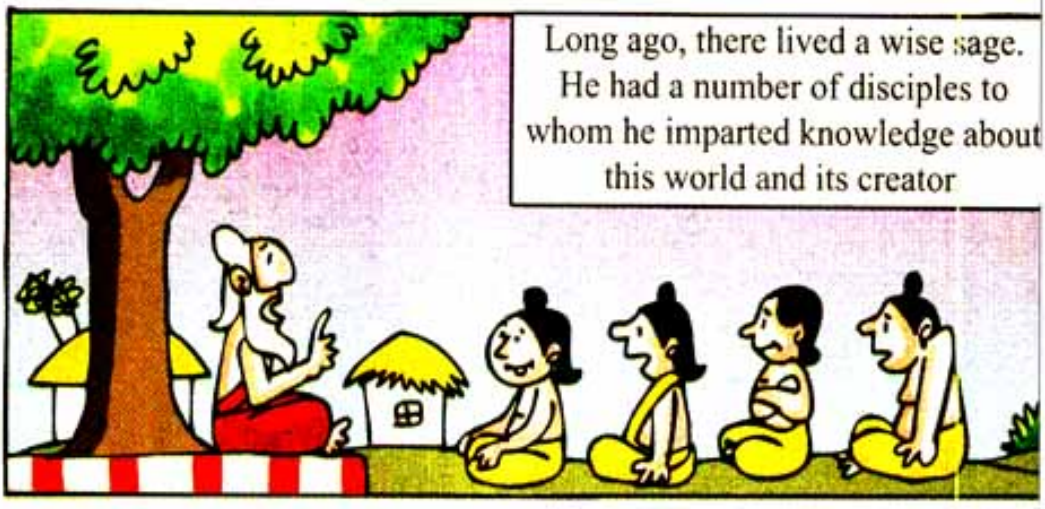
-S.Yuvan, Std. VIII, Bharathi MHSS, Coimbatore

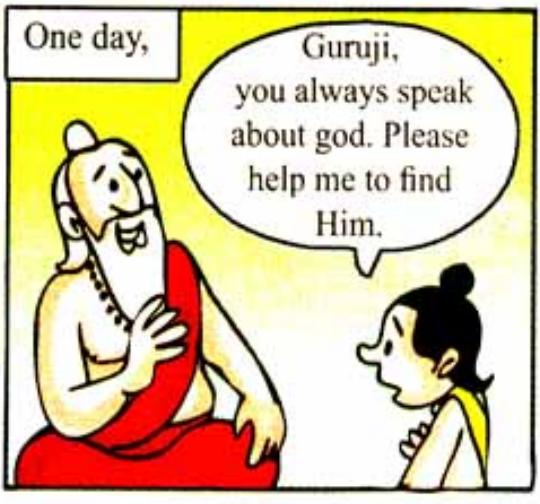


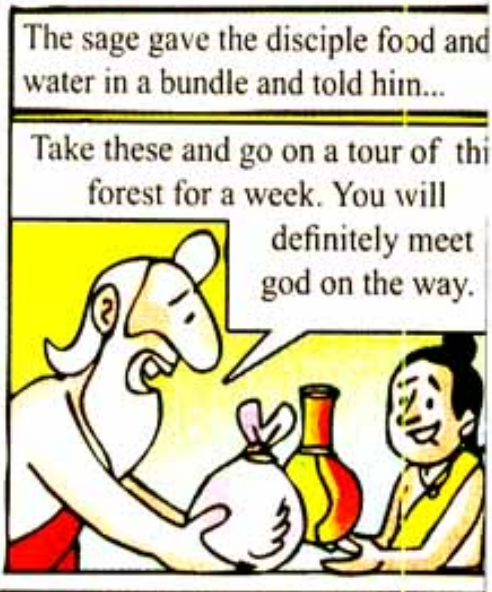
*Pangong Lake

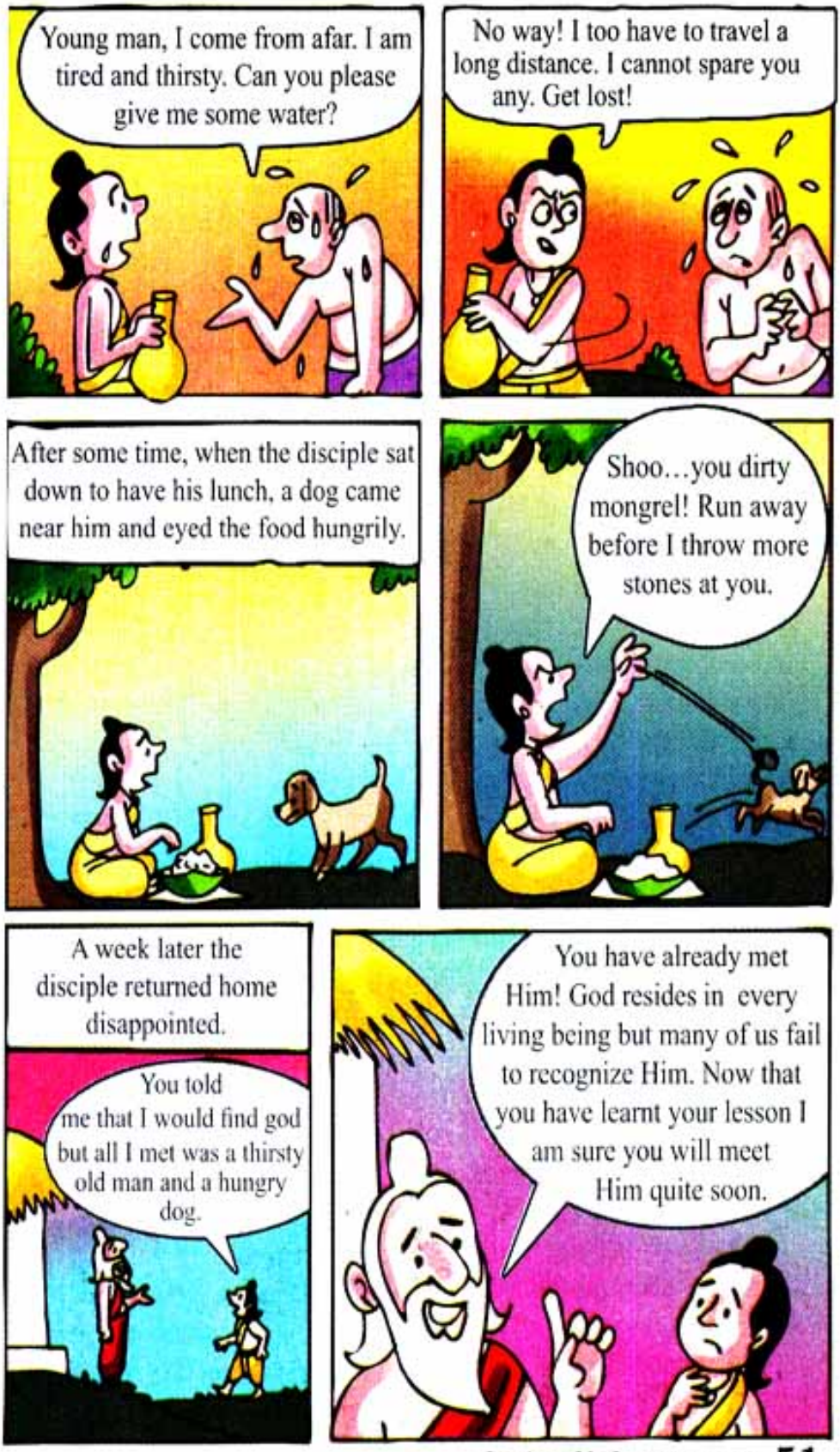
In Search of God

Story: Kanishka Ganeriwal, Std. VII, Chaitanya Vidyalaya, Hyderabad. Artist: Pilla








Young man, I come from afar. I am tired and thirsty. Can you please give me some water?
No way! I too have to travel a long distance. I cannot spare you any. Get lost!
After some time, when the disciple sat down to have his lunch, a dog came near him and eyed the food hungrily.
Shoo…you dirty mongrel! Run away before I throw more stones at you.
A week later the disciple returned home disappointed.
You told me that I would find god but all I met was a thirsty old man and a hungry dog.
You have already met Him! God resides in every living being but many of us fail to recognize Him. Now that you have learnt your lesson I am sure you will meet Him quite soon.

'Sun' day

Meenakshi groaned as she felt the heat and the light streaming into the room. Grandpa had as usual thrown open the curtains. Without opening her sleepy eyes, Meenu complained "Grandpa, today is Sunday and you know I like to sleep late…"

"Good morning, sleepy bug! Of course, today is Sunday! In fact, it is a bright 'sunny day' and you should be up and about in the glorious sunshine."

"Grandpa, I prefer to sleep in my cosy, dark room," she pleaded.

"Of all the works of creation that the Lord has made, our sun is the most important one. It gives our planet the ability to sustain life, and provides energy for plant and animal growth."

Meenu jumped off the bed and bumped headlong into Daddy.

"You seem to be bright and energetic early this morning?" Daddy held her firmly.

"She's derived energy from the Sun - Solar energy!" Grandpa grinned. Meenu started laughing too. Daddy looked curiosuly at both of them.

"We were having a heated discussion about the sun and I decided to throw some light on the subject," Grandpa joked.

Priya Ravi

Daddy laughed. "Now-a-day sun therapy is catching on in th medical world too. Jaundiced nev borns are being treated by exposur to sunlight."

"But my friends say that w

Indians and Africans are generali dark complexioned - thanks to th sun… " Meenu grumbled.

"Complexion has more to d with genes, not the sun," explaine Grandpa.

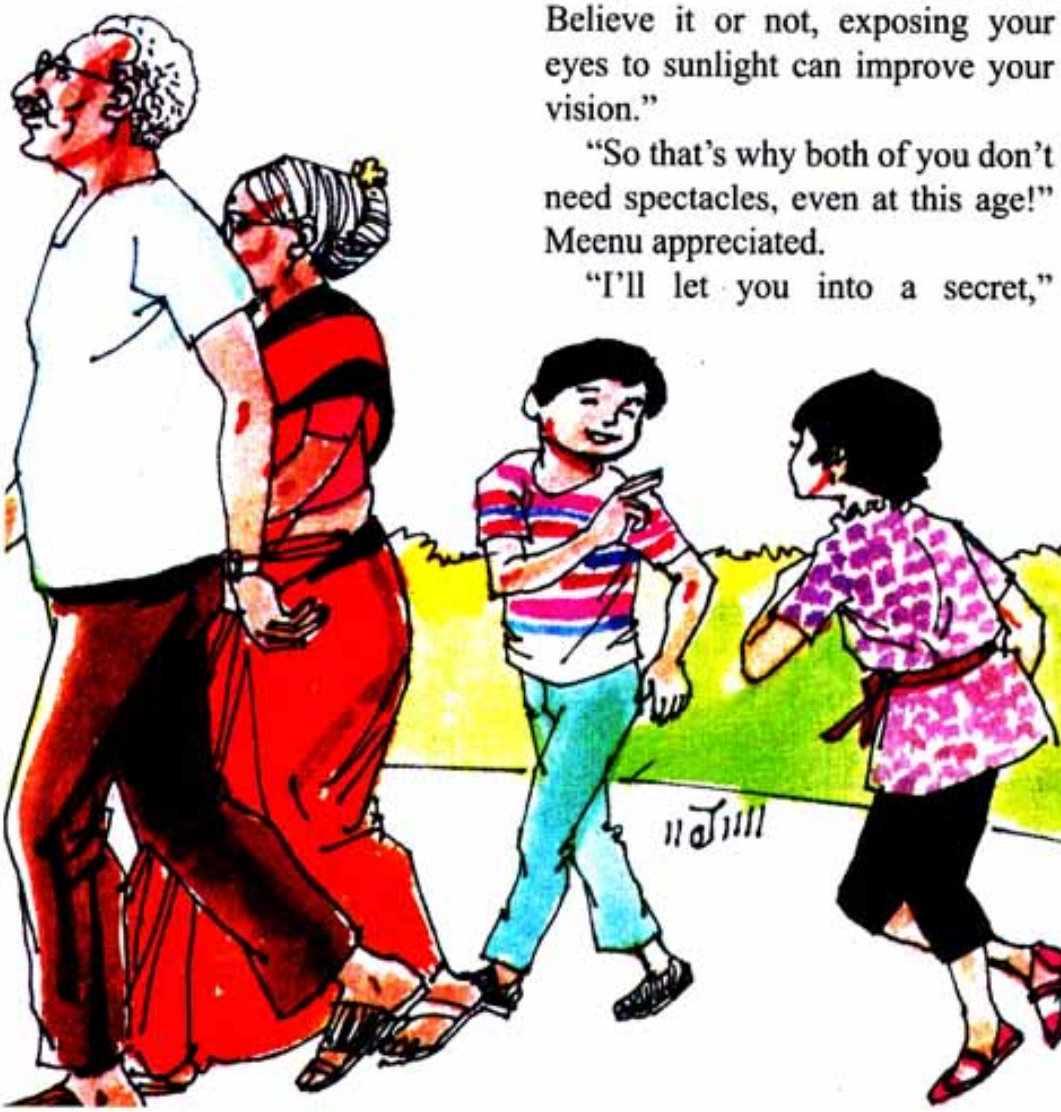
Daddy nodded. "The weste world increasingly believed th exposure to the sun's rays cou cause skin cancer. Now it ha been proved beyond doubt th the benefits far exceed the risl What's more, sunshine helps t process vitamin D. And do yc know that optimum vitamin

evels prevent cancer to a certain :xtent!" He continued, "Vitamin) is vital as it influences the entire ›ody - receptors that respond to the ›itamin have been found in almost :very type of human cell, from our

Everyday!

›rain to the toes."

Grandma brushed past them to ook out of the window.



Naturally Healthy

"Meenu do you know why she does that every morning" asked Grandpa.

"Hmmm... so that she can watch what's cooking in our neighbour's house..." Meenu smiled mischeivously.

Grandma glared at her. "You naughty child! I stand at the eastern window and look in the general direction of the sun. Believe it or not, exposing your eyes to sunlight can improve your vision."

"So that's why both of you don't need spectacles, even at this age!" Meenu appreciated.

"I'll let you into a secret,"

Grandpa said in a loud whisper. "I stand at this window and chant the slokas in praise of the Sun God. That's the reason for my victory in the battles that I have fought against your grandma."

"Ahha... so you think you are Lord Rama?" Grandma laughed. "The *Aditya Hridayam*, a hymn in glorification of the sun was taught by the great sage Agastya to Lord Rama on the battlefield. A fatigued Lord Rama regained strength and energy upon chanting this mystical hymn three times and defeated Ravana."

Grandpa added, "Mythology – Indian or otherwise - has always acknowledged the power of the Sun God. *Gayatri*, the most sacred text of the *Vedas*, is addressed at His rising."

"Vitamin D allows the body to absorb calcium and phosphorus needed for strong bones and teeth. The Vitamin D that we get from food is not fully active and needs to be converted by the liver. And the sun aids in this process," explained Daddy.

"Just like plants which can prepare food only in the presence of sun light, right?" Meenu asked intelligently.

Daddy patted her. "Yes, you've seen Amma do her yoga exercises at sunrise? That's called *Surya Namaskara* or offering salutations to the Sun God."

"The to and fro movements of *Surya Namaskara* render flexibility to the spine and the large muscle groups of the body. It also improves breathing capacity and fills the body with endurance, reduces abdominal fat, improves circulation and ensures functioning of all vital organs. The benefits are multiplied when practiced at sunrise. Even Arjun is religiously practicing it daily," Amma chipped in.

Meenu was impressed. "Wow! Amma, I'll wake up early everyday and you can teach me *Surya Namaskara*."

Grandpa beamed. "Everyday is going to be Sun-day for you!"

"Yes and I'm off to play before the sun gets too hot," replied Meenu.

Word Fun

With the help of the clues, rearrange the given words to form new words. (Eg: RING – Smile. Ans: GRIN)

1) ABET – Greek Letter
2) AMPLE – A tree
3) BRUSH – A type of plant
4) MARCH – To attract
5) STAPLE – Soft colour
6) MORDANT – Inactive state
7) SCARED – Holy
8 STONE – Beginning
9) PAGER – A fruit
10) TABLE – Sound of a domestic animal

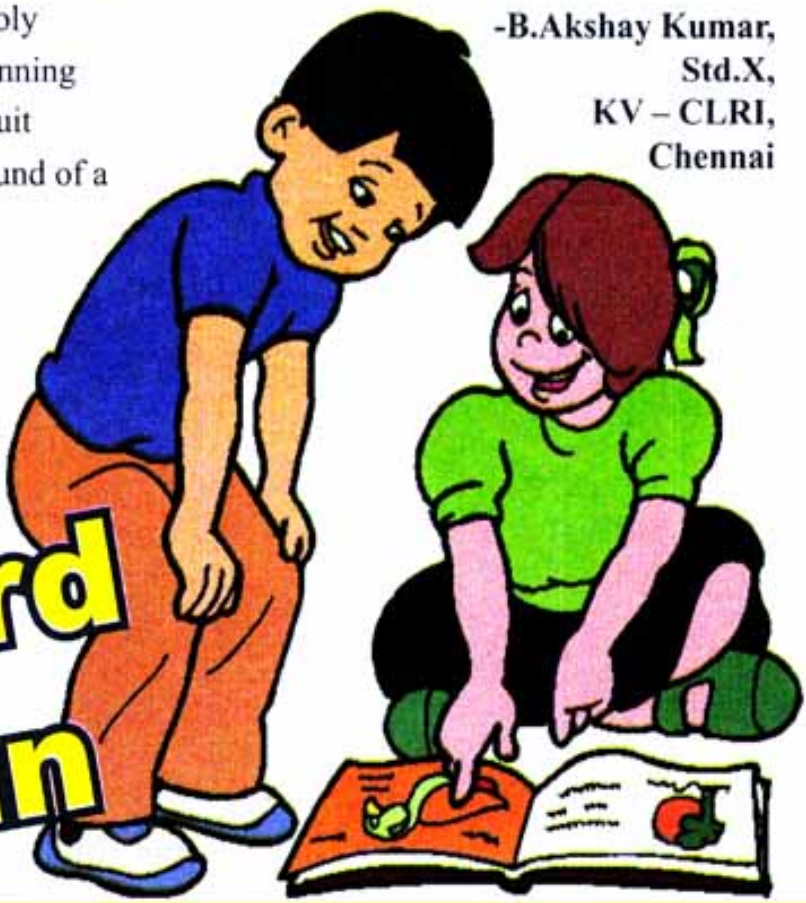
-V.Preethi,
Std.XII,
DAV MHSS,
Chennai

❖A to Z❖

The vowels are missing in these words. Just add them and see what you get!

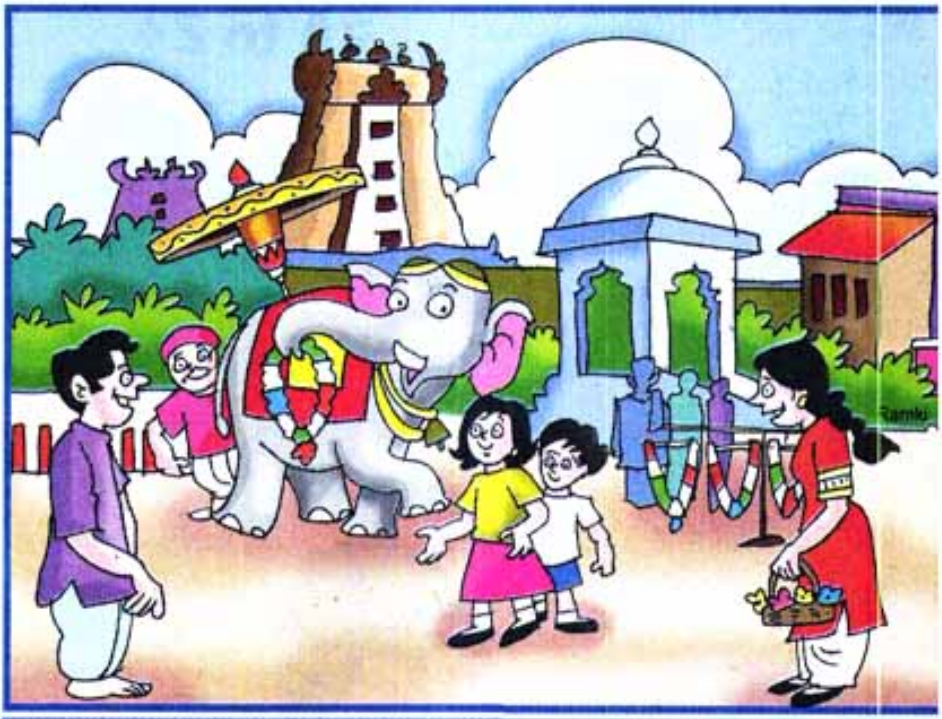
a) _tt_r
b) P_nd_
c) F_rr_t
d) S_ _l_ _n
e) H_dg_h_g
f) Ch_ _t_h
g) T_dp_l_
h) P_l_r b_ _r
i) L_ _p_rd
j) G_r_ff_

-B.Akshay Kumar,
Std.X,
KV – CLRI,
Chennai

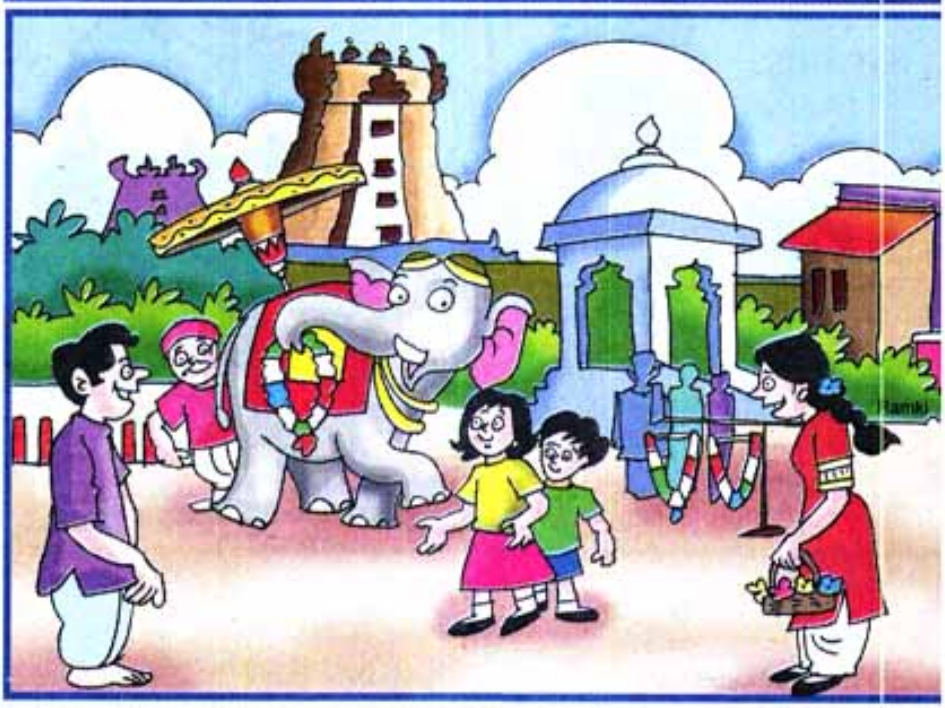


Answers: 1) BETA 2) MAPLE 3) SHRUB 4) CHARM 5) PASTEL 6) DORMANT 7) SACRED 8) ONSET 9) GRAPE 10) BLEAT

a) Otter b) Panda c) Ferret d) Seaiion e) Hedgehog f) Cheetah g) Tadpole h) Polarbear i) Leopard j) Giraffe



A visit to the temple – Find 5 differences between the two pictures.



Answers: 1. Window 2. Boy 3. Elephant 4. Garland 5. Woman

Dear Children,

Ten Commandments for you while sending in contributions to Gokulam:

1. **Write down your name, class, name of your school and complete residential address** at the beginning of each contribution. We will not accept any contribution with incomplete details.

2. **Make use of A4 sheets and write on one side of the paper,** leaving the other side blank. Do write legibly.

3. **Number your pages** and if your contribution runs to more than two pages, then write your complete personal details at the back of every page.

4. **Contributions by e-mail are welcome...** do give complete details including your e-mail id at the beginning of each mail.

5. **The best contributions will be published** and a certificate will be sent to the contributor. Do preserve your certificates, for the child with the maximum number of certificates will get a bumper prize at the end of 12 months (ending each June).

6. **Competition entries** must reach us before the last date mentioned.

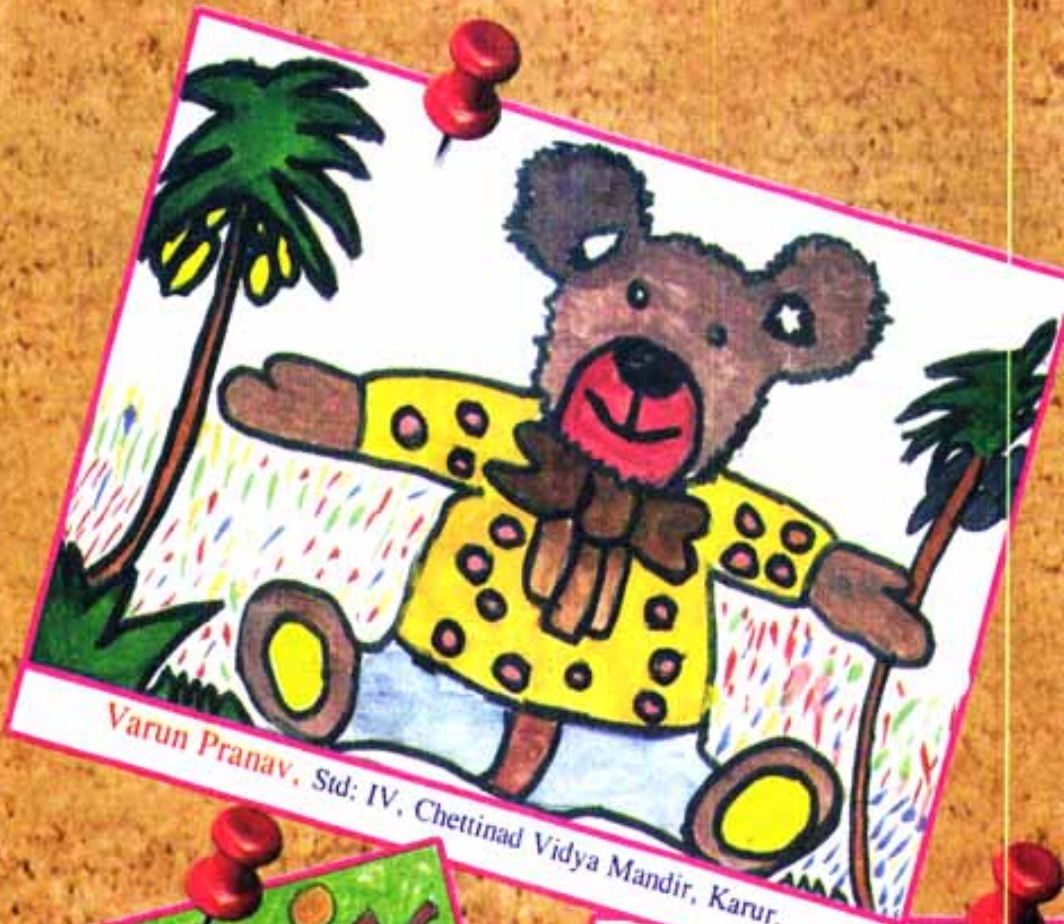
7. All answers to competitions must be written in the respective page/ grid. **Entries to competitions through e-mail/ xeroxed copies/ A4 sheets will not be accepted.**

Make Sure & Take Care...

8. Entries to Happy Birthday (Birthday Bash) and theme based contributions (eg., Diwali, New year, Republic Day, Environment Day, Teacher's Day, etc) **should reach us two months prior to the respective events.**

9. **We are looking for original stories, experiences, amusing anecdotes and articles,** but if you have based your writing on any source, then do acknowledge it.

10. **No copying, please!**



Varun Pranav, Std: IV, Chettinad Vidya Mandir, Karur.

Lakshmi Prasanna, Std: III,
Little Angels School, Vishakapatnam.

Dixsheta, Std: I,
D.P.S, Bengalooru.

Naveen Krishna Raja
Std: V, Periyar MHSS, Ariyalur.

Rishita Chakraborty
Std: I, Presidency School, Bengalooru.

Haleema Babu Std: II, Jyothi Nivas Public School, Aluva, Kerala.

Kiddy's Palette

Chapter 9

Synopsis of chapter 8

Padma and Mau inform the boys about their startling discovery and they decide to investigate the matter. While they are making plans for their night adventure, Sheila joins them but is rudely sent out by Mau. After dinner they manage to give slip to their wardens and walk into the jungle. They are in for a rude shock when Padma and Mau are discovered by Madam Patricia (with Sheila's help), who reprimands them and takes them back to the hostel. But the girls are glad that the boys are still in the jungle and hope that they manage to uncover the mystery. Now read on...

As soon as Patricia disappeared from the scene, the boys came out of their hideout. They picked up the night vision binoculars that Padma had dropped.

"That was pretty smart of Paddy," Sadil said admiringly.

"Hope Acid turns up," Badri muttered. "We may not get an opportunity like this again."

"Yes, and now that the girls are caught the school may come up with extra security to prevent students from venturing out unescorted," Sid pointed.

"Shh...think I can spot them coming," Sadil whispered in a hurried tone. "Quick, get behind the trees."

It was Professor Ramakanth and Harish who almost brushed past the hiding boys before heading straight into the jungle.

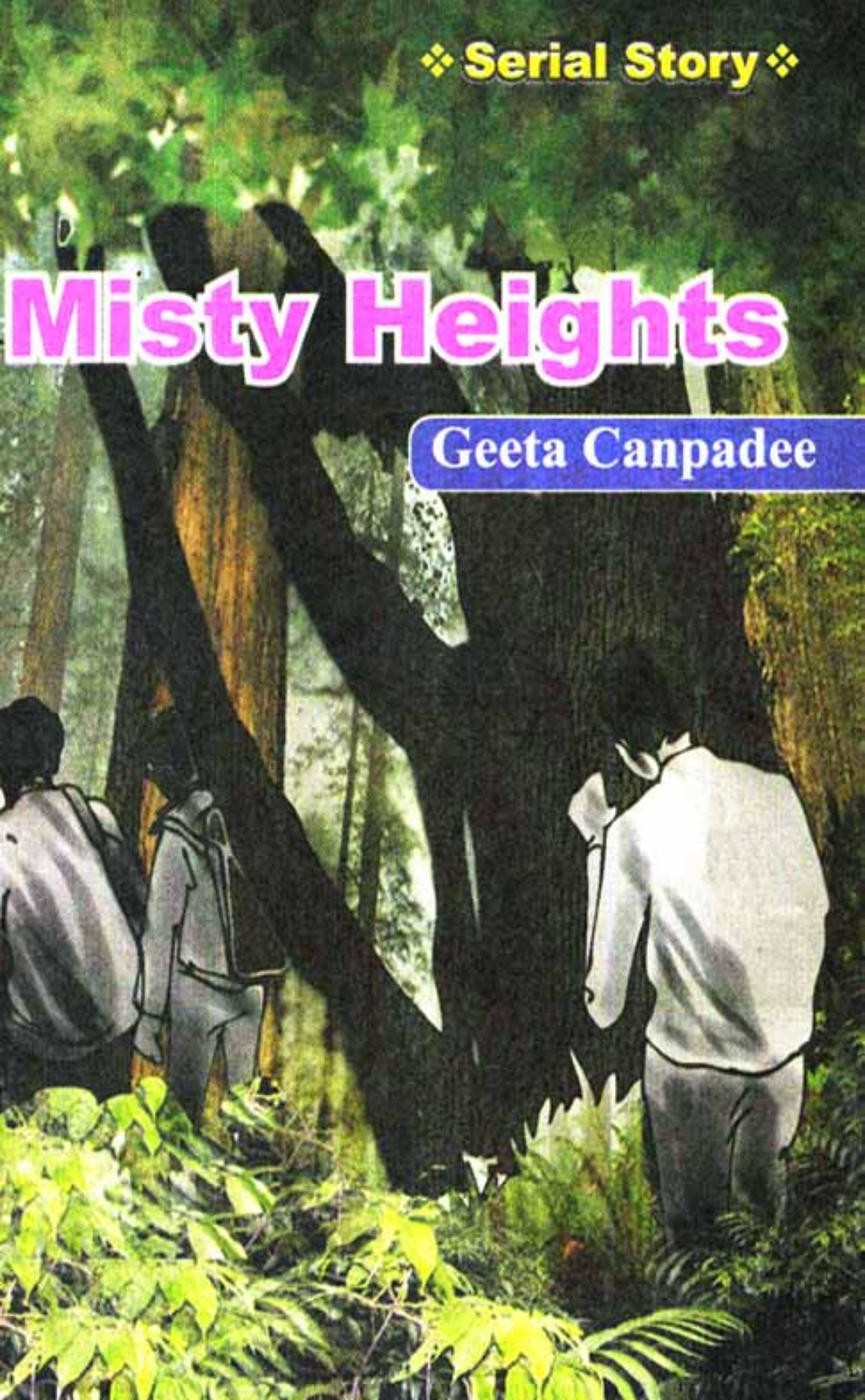
Seconds later, Sadil signalled that they should follow them. "Even the slightest noise might warn them," he whispered. "Don't switch on your torches till I say so."

The boys now entered the jungle with Sadil at the lead. They trailed them for nearly half an hour when Sad gestured a freeze. Harish and Ramakanth had come to a sudden halt and minutes later, a fellow who looked like a tribal villager appeared on the scene, holding a gunny bag. He handed it over to the professor who inturn gave him some cash. The tribesman left and the twosome continued their journey. They walked a kilometre or so further, before stopping by what looked like a dilapidated shed. The boys followed their hearts thumping harder and harder. But what was this? The Professor and his student had vanished into thin air! Also, the

❖ Serial Story ❖

Misty Heights

Geeta Canpadee



door and windows of the shed were bolted from outside.

"Who could have locked them up from outside?" Sid whispered.

"Unless they didn't go in at all," Badri reasoned.

"But how is it possible?" Sadil wondered. "Hmm..I have a gut feeling that there should be some sort of an opening in the ground," and he went down on his knees, groping all around. The others followed suit and crawled all around the shed before Badri spotted what looked like a manhole.

"This is it!" And trembling with excitement, he tugged at the ring and pulled open the lid to stare at a big hole. It was pitch dark as the boys peeped in and they weren't sure how deep it was. But a rope ladder was hanging inside which confirmed that the professor must have gone down this way. And the boys decided to follow suit. The torches were turned off and they began their descent slowly. Thankfully, their feet hit the ground soon and the boys were heading through what looked like a long corridor. It ended in a bifurcation and towards their right the boys could spot a streak of light. They carefully tiptoed towards the light and what they saw next literally blew their wits away!

The passageway culminated into a dormitory filled with a line of cages! Inside the cages were some rare species of animals like the civet cat, slender loris, pangolin, striped hyena and also two tiny tiger cubs. All the animals seemed to be fast asleep, perhaps drugged. As the boys screened their eyes from one cage to the next, their vision fell upon a series of elephant tusks and rhino horns hanging from the wall.

"What could Acid be doing here?" Badri whispered and before anyone could reply some muffled voices could be heard closeby. The boys quickly pushed themselves back into the shadows and a few seconds later spotted Ramakanth and Harish emerge from a tiny

cubicle adjoining the dormitory. Under the professor's watchful eye, Harish began clicking pictures of the animals from all angles. Next, the duo proceeded towards a computer at the far end of the room.

'HEAL & ZEAL .Com the main page zoomed across the monitor and what the boys saw next helped them join the loose ends of the mystery. Not only were the pictures of the endangered species flashed across the web site, there

were also films of healing medicines made out of elephant tusks and rhino horns. And seated right there infront was the crafty professor, interacting with prospective customers from across the world and striking deals worth millions of dollars. The boys, their hearts thumping fast, tried their best to remain composed so that they could think and act wisely.

What to do next? Should they confront the Professor or get help from outside? The second option seemed more appropriate because even the slightest inkling of being caught, and the professor could turn dangerous. He was also shrewd enough to create an alibi in his favour and could even manage to get the boys suspended from Misty Heights. So they patiently waited there till Ramakanth and Harish returned to the cubicle. Then they traced their steps back to the rope ladder and climbed up at break neck speed. Once they were out of the hovel, they heaved a sigh.

"I still cannot believe that a professor of Misty Heights could be doing all this!" Badri exclaimed.

"Poaching and exporting endangered species can lead to imprisonment and jail," Sadil observed.

"Well, the professor may be a small fry in the whole setup," Sid reasoned. "He could be acting as a middleman in the illegal exports for this region while the entire operation could be headed by an international gang."

"Maybe, but he is working against the law. How do we bring him to book?" Sadil wondered doubtfully. "Whom do we confide in and what do we do next?"

"The only person I can think of right now is Madam Garibaldi," Badri opined. "We have to trust someone and I am sure she would be able to resolve this problem."

"Well, let's get going before it's too late," Sid glanced at his watch. "But let me first cover the manhole. Shouldn't leave any signs behind – the professor certainly is no ordinary man."

The other two couldn't have agreed more and as they made haste

towards the hostel, they heard some muffled voices.

"Shhh....." they came to a halt and listened carefully. They could discern a beam of light approaching from a distance.

"Who could it be?" Sadil queried, focussing the binoculars towards the faint illumination. And to the other's surprise he started chuckling.

"Guess what?" and he flashed his torch towards the advancing figures. "It's none other than Padma and Mau!"

The other two couldn't believe their eyes, but were more than glad to see the girls.

"How did you get out of Patricia's clutches?" Sid exclaimed.

"The moment she turned her back on us, we skipped out of the hostel," Mau replied. "She wouldn't have imagined we would dare to sneak out again."

"Unfortunately you missed the climax," said Badri and updated them on all their findings.

"Oh my God!" the girls exclaimed. "He is a criminal!

And as they walked towards the Principal's quarters, several questions popped up in their minds. What would happen to the Professor once his game was out? What would become of poor Harish? Would he be punished too? But then, wasn't he just an obedient student, perhaps unconsciously brainwashed into thinking that he was doing the right thing? Nevertheless, didn't he have a conscience of his own? How could he allow himself to be a part of this illegal activity?

(To be continued)

)ear Children,

Are you ready for the puzzle this month. Each clue indicates a three 'tered word. Each of the three letters can be found in the three words :ntioned against each clue. Given below are the names of winners of ord Play – 2 (August 2010). Our heartiest congratulations to e champs! The answers are given on the next page o. 66). The winners of Word Play – 3 will be nounced in November 2010.

Tanusri Gururaj, Std.III, DPS, Noida
S.Sharadha, Std.V, KV, Tiruvannamalai
Likhita Satish, Std.IV, C.F.T.R.I School, ysore
Akshaya Narasimman, Std.V. Apeejay School, avi Mumbai
Adithya, Std.III, Ashok Leyland School, Hosur

Fill in the form on the reverse of this page and send your entries to Gokulam before 25.10.10

WORD PLAY – 4

1	Man's best friend	DRY	SON	AGE	
2	To damage	RIM	SPA	ARC	
3	Attempt	ART	AIR	YES	
4	Entire	MAN	LET	ALE	
5	To scatter seed	SEE	ROW	WED	
6	Friend	APE	ARE	OWL	
7	Goal	SAP	BIT	MOW	
8	Purchase	TUB	CUB	RAY	
9	Unhappy	ASS	BAR	ODE	
10	A card game	GUN	NOT	COT	

- G.S.S.

WORD PLAY -2 ANSWERS

1	A Preposition	OFF	ONE	SIR	FOR
2	Utilise	BUS	ASK	BEE	USE
3	Knot	ATE	BIT	END	TIE
4	Attach	FAT	SIT	AXE	FIX
5	Strange	ODE	DID	DOG	ODD
6	A Star	SAD	NUN	NEW	SUN
7	Income	PAR	MAR	YES	PAY
8	Tell	SAW	BAY	MAY	SAY
9	Container	JAM	MAN	CAR	AR
10	Fight	ORE	BOW	VOW	ROW

Word Play - 4 Entry Form

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class : .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

.....Pin.....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

● Strictly for school going children ●Five lucky winners will get a cash award of ₹ 50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. ●Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only ●No xerox copies. ●Editor's decision is final and binding.

Quiz Time

What was Dronacharya's son
led?

Who is the Hindu god of good
tune?

Where is India's only temple
dicated to Brahma located?

Panj Pyaras are associated with
ich religion?

Name the language in which
ddha delivered his sermons?

The Kauravas had a sister
iled…

Who is the Greek goddess of
tory?

Who is the Egyptian god of
erlife?

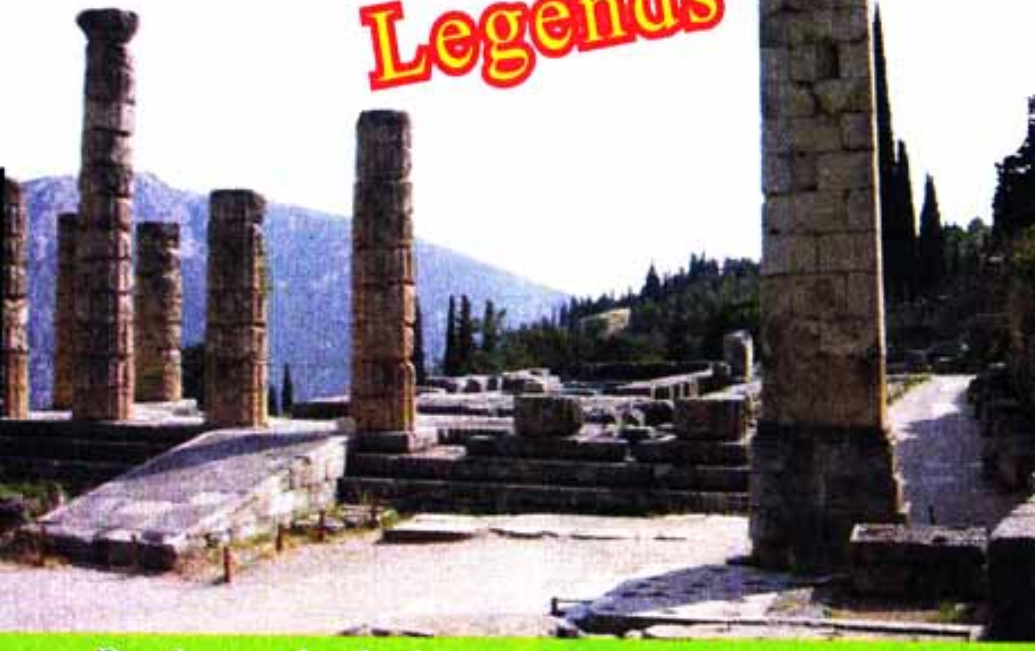
What do the Roman
d Mars, Greek god Ares
d Hindu god Kartikeya
have in common?

10. Where is the temple of Apollo located?

11. To which mythology is the Jade emperor related to?

Compiled by: R.Varshinee, Std.III, Ambe Vidyalaya, Vadodara; Shravya Sharath, Std.VII, Sri Kumaran Public School, Bengalooru; Aashik Narayan Mukhsale, Std.VII, Jindal Vidya Mandir, Vidyanagar; Sarmistha Mishra, Std.VII, B.J.E.M School, Bhubaneswar

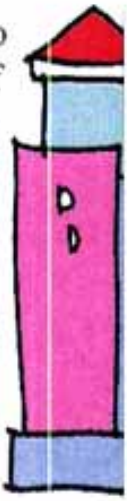
Myths & Legends



Answers: 1) Ashwathama 2) Lord Ganesha 3) Pushkar 4) Sikhism 5) Pali 6) Dusha
7) Nike 8) Anubis 9) They are all gods of war! 10) Delphi 11) Chinese mythology

A small robot which climbs even smooth surfaces such as glass has been developed by engineers. A new textile inspired by geckos has been tested successfully on the robot. Geckos' ability to defy gravity is due to microscopic hairs on their toes which increases the surface area creating an one way adhesive. Now, the engineers wai to improve the textile design to suit humans. If they succeed, any person can become a spiderman!

Sport lovers had to put up with plenty of sad news during the past few weeks. First, it was the corruption charges amounting to several crores, against some organizers of the Delhi Commonwealth Games. Then it was the no ball by Randiv which denied a well deserved century to Sehwag. Though Suraj Randiv apologised, the Srilankan Cricket Board banne him for one match as a punishmen In a third incident world ches champion Anand was questione on his nationality by HRD ministr Delhi, and so the Hyderaba university could not crown hi with a honorary doctorate! Thoug the HRD minister apologised at th last minute, a deeply hurt Anan refused to accept the honour. O top of all these comes the news th three Pakistani cricket players hav been accused of match fixing! The



Any

Spiderman!

Man - A

ere dropped for the rest of the ngland tour.

An inflatable tie has been esigned by a British company. If a erson feels like taking a snooze at s work table, all he has to do is to ow at the nozzle and the tie flates like a small pillow! He n then keep the tie-pillow on e table and rest his head on p of it! The only danger is at he may snore, attract the tention of his boss and invite s anger!

❖Gokulam Times❖

A couple, travelling home to Southampton from London, decided to alight from the train two stops early at Eastleigh. Emma and David were shocked when the ticket collector slapped a fine on them for not completing their journey! Southwest Trains company said that the penalty was levied since they were using a concessional frequent travel-ticket. The penalty was more than the concession given to the two daily passengers!

Bohol island in Philippines which boasts of being a tourist attraction, went without electricity for half a day. The reason? A snake climbed into a power transmission line causing it to short out! The snake was electrocuted and died at once.

"The bar tailed godwit b
flies 11,000 km. non sto
says professor of ecolo
Anders Hedenstrom of Lu
University, Sweden. Eve
antumn it undertakes the eig
day journey from Alaska
New Zealand. It loses 0.
percent of its body weight ea
hour of its flight!

A 2460 metre high volcano on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, erupted for the first time in 400 years! It shot smoke and ash 1500 metres high into the sky and sent 18,000 people fleeing from their homes!

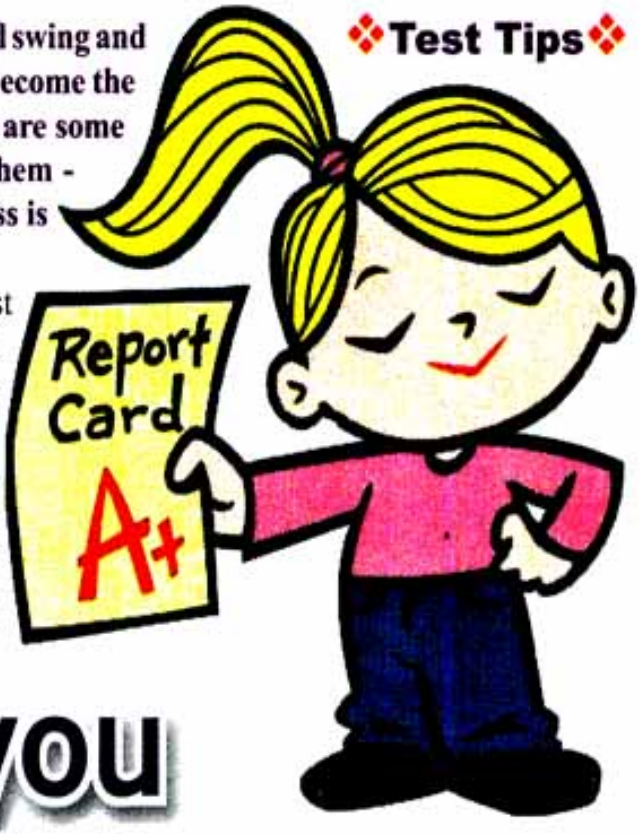
Our M.P.s got a 300% pay rise and not being satisfied, disrupted proceedings of the parliament! The government yielded and each M.P. got Rs.10,000 more per month!

"Don't allow the stock of gra
to rot in godowns; give them to t

poor and hungry," said the Supren
Court in a judgement. But tl
government of India says that tl
courts cannot interfere in polic
decisions of the government. Whi
the argument is acceptable, tl
tragic reality of hunger on one sic
and huge quantities of rotting gra
on the other side is unacceptable.

❖Test Tips❖

Academics are in full swing and :sts and exams have become the rder of the day. Here are some seful tips to tackle them - llow them and success is ours!



- Find out the test ortion well in advance.
- Mark the test dates n a calendar.
- Plan a study hedule so that a oderate amount of ortion is covered each ay.

Are you Ready?

- Set aside a longer duration for udies the two evenings before test.
- Catch up on missing notes and ssignments right away.
- Make up study tools like ash cards, handouts, lists, outline ummary, etc.
- Skim your class notes, home vork, assignments and previous est papers.
- Make a list of important uestions, diagrams and sums which are most likely to be asked n the test.
- Go through all important terms in your text books.
- Quiz yourself or study with your friend and quiz each other.
- Check your bag and pencil box for all necessary items.
- Go to bed on time on the night before the test.
- Wake up on time, pray to god and have a healthy and filling breakfast on the D-Day.
- Enter your classroom with confidence and positive attitude.
- And last but not the least, wish your friends best of luck!

-Hamsini Natarajan, Std.X, DPS, Panipat

'Amaterasu – The Sun Goddess

Every land has its own gods and goddesses, myths and legends. The *Kojiki* or 'the records of ancient matters' is a Japanese religious text. It is an important source material for ancient Japanese custom, traditions and myths.

According to the *Kojiki*, one of the most important deities of Japan is Amaterasu, the Shinto sun-goddess. Her full name is Amaterasu-o-mi-kami which means 'glorious goddess who shir in the heavens'. She was the eld daughter of Izanagi, another g She was so bright that her pare sent her up the celestial ladder heaven from where she start ruling the skies and earth. When h brother, the storm god, Susano

ravaged the earth, Kojiki becan upset and retreated into a cave.

Her disappearance deprived t world of light and life. The oth gods used all their power to lu her out but in vain. Finally, Am no-uzume, the goddess of laughte hung a mirror outside the cave ar started performing a funny danc Her antics made the gods laug so much that Amaterasu becan curious and came out of the cav She saw her own reflection in t mirror and became fascinated b it and decided to stay outside t cave and light up the world.

-G.Pranav, Karumandapan Trich

Thinkology

1. What happened to the girl who swallowed a spoon?

2. A lorry driver went on the wrong side in a one-way street but was not fined. Why?

3. There are 5 boys, and 5 mangoes in a box. How will you divide it in such a way that each boy gets a mango and one remains in the box too?

4. Where were the ancient Indian kings crowned?

5. Which two alphabets spell jealousy?

6. What did the skeleton say when he served dinner?

7. What do you get when you cross two banana peels?

8. Why did the doughnut go to the dentist?

9. I am Will. What is my full name?

10. What do you call a chameleon that wins a lottery?

11. What is common between a dog and a tree?

12. What do monkeys and coins have in common?

Compiled by - G.Monisha Gengashri, Std.X, P.S.G.R.K HSS, Coimbatore; G.Lalith, Std.IX, PACM Boys HSS, Rajapalayam; C.P.Kavya, Std.IX, St.Antony's HS, Bengalooru; Yabihul Mohammed, Std.VI, St. Theresa's School, Mangalore; Tabreez Ahamed, Std.IX, Padua HS, Mangalore; Shipra Mittal, Std.VII, KV-AFS, Nasik

Monkeys and Coins?

Answers: 1) She couldn't stir! 2) The driver was walking 3) Give the last boy the box with the mango 4) Otcourse, on their heads! 5) NV (Envy) 6) 'Bone' Appetite! 7) A pair of 'slippers' 8) To get a chocolate filling! 9) William 10) Chamillionaire! 11) Bark 12) Head and tail

Every culture has its own legends and folklore in which strange and mysterious creatures existed and played a major role. Whether they were for real or not, we are not sure – but they still have the power to fascinate us. Read on to find out more about a few such creatures…

Centaur – These strange creatures had the head and arms of a man and the body of a horse. They frequently appeared in Greek mythology and are said to have inhabited the northern parts of Greece. The myth may have arisen because of the skillful horsemanship of the people of this region. They are also mentioned in the Indian mythology as *Kinnaras*.

Mermaid – These mythological aquatic creatures have a female human head and torso and the tail of a fish. They seem to be very popular as Greek, Polish, Anglo-Saxon, Dutch as well as Arabic folklores mention them. The first mention of a mermaid was in the story of Atargatis, a Syrian moon goddess who jumped into a lake and took the form of a mermaid.

Unicorn – Take the body of a horse, a lion's tail, a goat's beard and a horned forehead and throw them together and you have a unicorn. This ferocious creature is the only mythical beast which possessed

good qualities and was not a threat to humans. Infact, its horn was supposed to possess magical properties that had the ability to purify water and neutralize poison.

Dragon – Two versions of dragons appeared in our legend, the Chinese dragon and the European dragon. The European ones were huge reptile like creatures with wings and could breathe fire. They were often portrayed in myths as malevolent creatures possessing large eyes and guarding precious jewels. In contrast, the Chinese dragons resembled a snake and were represented as symbols of the Chinese emperors. They could assume human form and acted as protectors of the people. Even today it is common to see people in China wearing dragon costumes and dancing in fairs and festivals.

Fairy – These magical creatures are generally described as human in appearance but diminutive in size. Fairy was the general term and included elves, brownies, sprites, goblins, gnomes and sylphs. Some fairies were notorious and stole babies, led travellers astray and stole household items, while others such as brownies appeared at night and completed all household chores.

Werewolf – Also known as lycanthropes, these mythical creatures have appeared predominantly in European folklores. They are usually men who turned into wolves on full moon nights. They were evil and terrorized and preyed upon humans.

-Sonia Samantaray,
Std.IX, DAV,
Bhubaneshwar

Distant Past...

In today's modern world, science and technology has attained numero uno status. The whole world seems to revolve around nothing but science. Each day new inventions, discoveries and breakthroughs are announced from various parts of the globe. Huge laboratories are built and continuous research is going on. All nations are competing with one another to become the most scientifically advanced state. This is really a welcome change from just a few centuries ago when science and research were taboo. A number of scientists and inventors were persecuted, imprisoned and punished for their discoveries and views. It was only in the past century that science was embraced and given its due recognition. In comparison, art and commerce are as old as human civilization. Artists were always patronized and encouraged by kings and nations, and commercial activity has been the mainstay of every successful economy. While different fields have gained prominence in different ages, let us all resolve today to give equal importance and respect to all subjects – for a hairdresser is as important to society as a lawyer!

Science can be classified into three categories – factual science, social science and creative science. The first deals with the core concepts of science while the second involves management, categorization and distribution of available resources.

Doctor, Lawyer or Accountant?

chosen stream then that is the best stream for him/her!

-Krishna Mehta, Std.V, St.Kabir, Ahmedabad; Gayatri.S, Std.IX, National Public School, Bengalooru; Sreelekshmi.V.B, Sree Narayan Trusts Central School, Kollam

Every individual has a duty to perform, be it a lawyer, artist or a doctor. All professions must be well - balanced in a progressive society. So where does the question of more or less value arise?

-A.Sesha Sai Kashyap, Std.X, St.Joseph's School, Hyderabad

The third category deals with art, law and psychology. For a stable social life all the three are equally important and valuable.

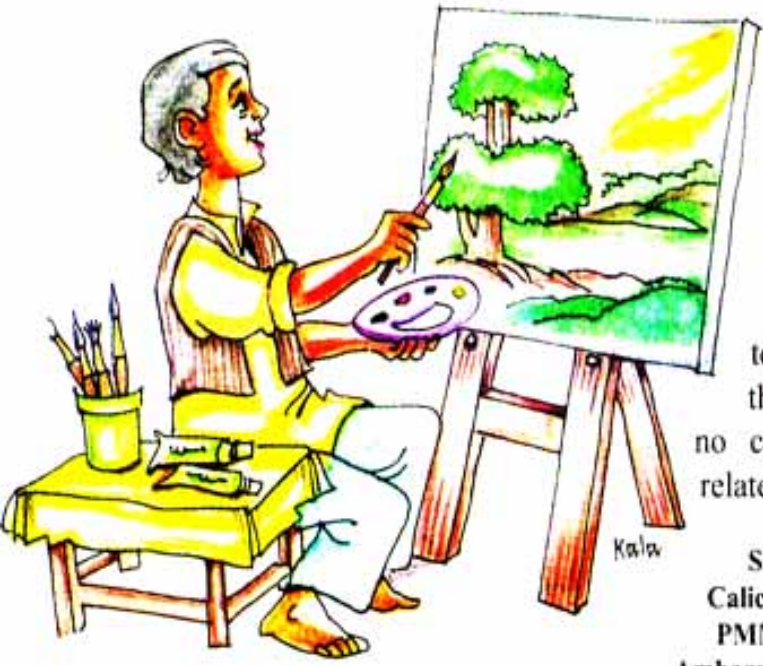
-Sweta Shivaramakrishnan, Std.XII, Kelkar College, Mumbai

It is the perception of our society that science has more prospects. This is totally wrong. Each stream has its own value, and hard work will make us succeed in any stream. If a person is happy in his/her

What do you want to be when you grow up? – This is the most important question. If you are keen on becoming an IT professional, study computer science and if you want to be a lawyer or an editor, take up arts – simple and easy, isn't it?

-Tejasri Gururaj, Std.IX, DPS, Noida;

Each stream is unique in its own



(E.M.) School, Rourkela; R.Supraja, Std.IX, Modern SSSS, Chennai

If everybody took up science, then there will be no commercial or art related activity!

-Vineeth.S, Std.IX, St.Joseph's Boys' HSS, Calicut; Shreyas.K, Std.X, PMM Innerwheel School, Ambarnath, Thane; S.Gokul, Std.VIII, Vidhya Vikaas MHSS, Coimbatore

way. Choosing a subject depends on the student's interest as well as ability. People who have taken up arts and commerce have achieved equal success as those who have opted for science.

-Shruti Ravichandran, Std.IX, Singhania School, Mumbai; Srividya.N, Std.XI, Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya HSS, Chennai; Sonic Haridasan, Std.X, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Calicut; R.Aravind, Age 11, GKD MHSS, Coimbatore; M.Bharathi Manonmani, Std.X, Kamaraj MHSS, Nambiyur; Maanasa Natrajan, Std.VII, Jnanodaya School, Bengalooru

It does not make sense to compare streams. Each has its own merits and de-merits. Success is sure if one is honest in the chosen field!

-R.Prasanth, Std.XII, Deepika

Students study science right from class one whereas commerce is a totally new subject. Economics and accounts have tough concepts and logics too, and require more effort on the part of students to understand them. Discoveries and inventions would not have flourished if not for commerce!

-Yashaswini Premjit, Std.XI, The Hyderabad Public School, Hyderabad; S.Rakshaa vigneshwari, Std.VIII, Shri Anand Jain Vidyalaya, Chennai

There are many options available today and students get confused while selecting a course. They succumb to peer, parental

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH:

Should schools allow children to carry mobile phones with them?

Send us your views by 25.10.2010. Each published entry will receive a prize of ₹ 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non-residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokulam@kalkiweekly.com).

and societal pressure and end up choosing the wrong stream.

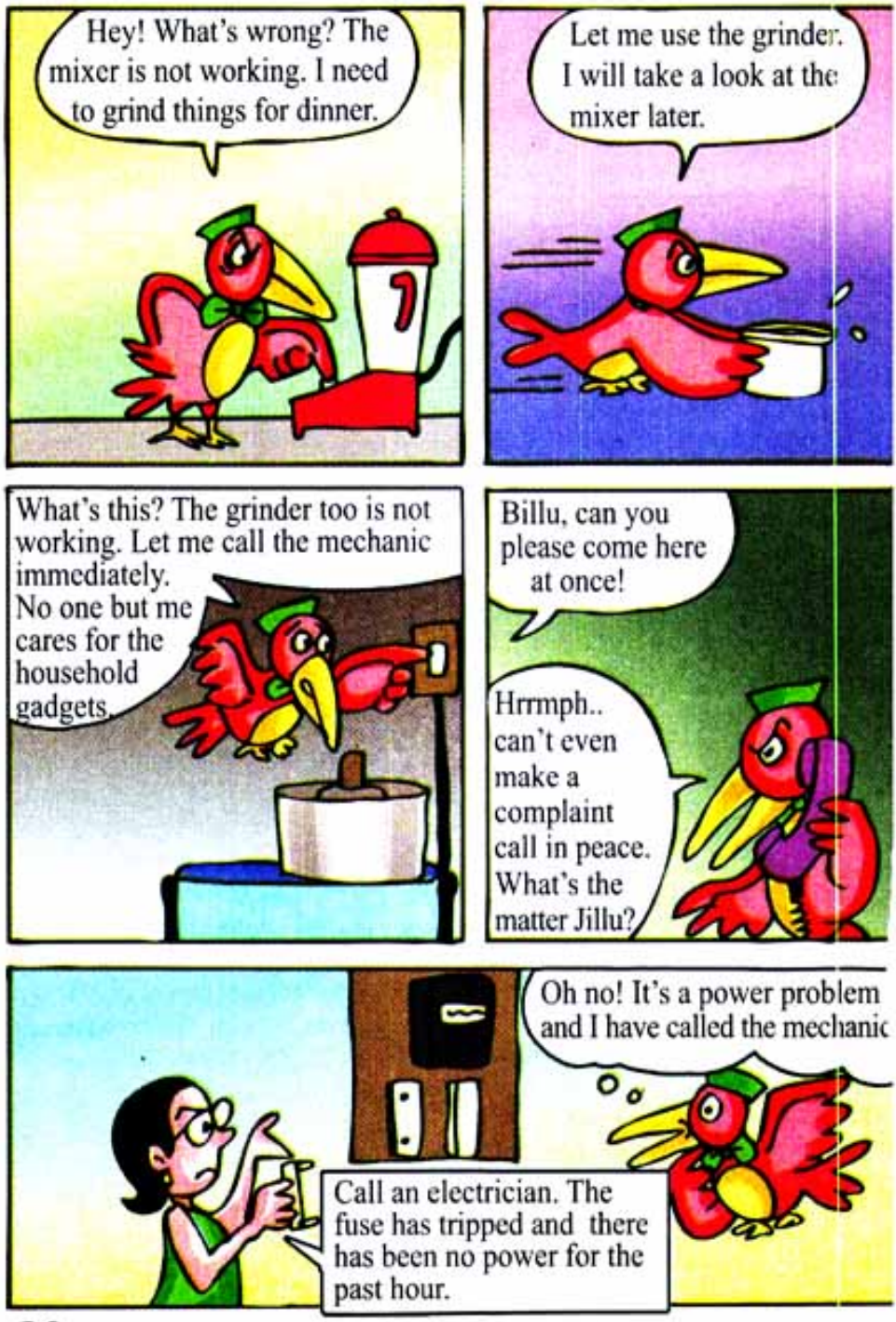
-Lakshmi Ajaykumar, Std.X, St.Arnold's HS, Mumbai

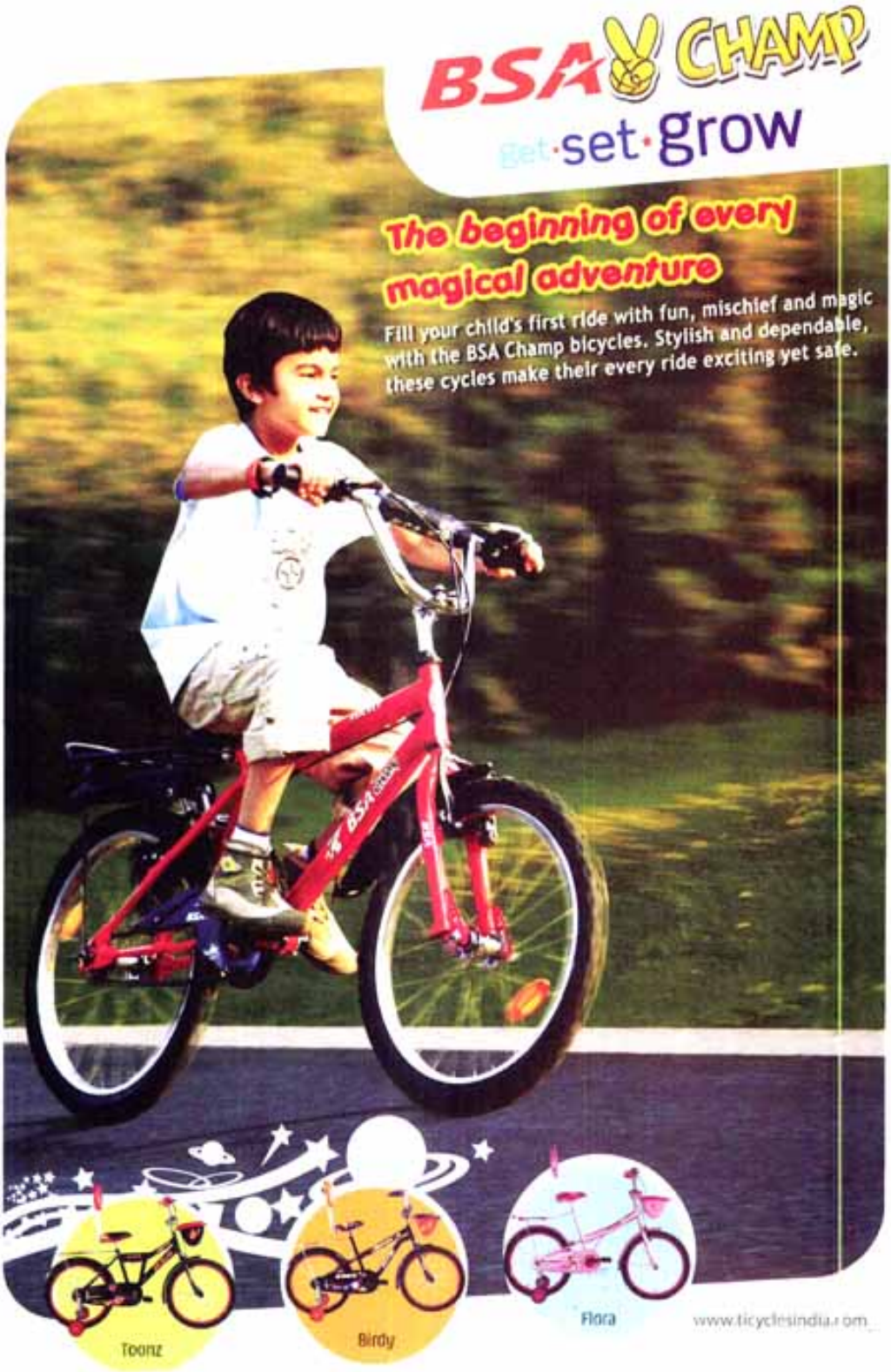
No science – no progress! This is a scientific world and everyone needs to know atleast a little about science to survive in it. Latest inventions and technology make our life easier; we are discovering outer space thanks to science; various life threatening diseases have been vanquished. Science is present in every sphere of life. Scientific discoveries help society at large. Science is necessary to take any country forward. It would not be wrong to claim that there would be no life without science!

-S.Gokula Narayanan, Std.VII, Chennai; K.R.Jaishree, Std.VIII, Akchara Bala Bhavan, Salem; R.Deepalakshmi, Coimbatore; M.V.Swarnalakshmi, Std.X, KV -1, Calicut; Puranjan Dev, Std.VII, Buxi Jagabandhu English Medium School, Bhubaneswar; A.V.S.Bhagyashree, Std.VIII, St.Ann's School, Devarakonda; P.R.Sundaresan Iyer, Std.XI, Chandresh Lodha Memorial School; V.M.Ramachandiran, Std.IX, Campion Anglo-Indian HSS, Trichy; P.Nellai Kumar, Std.IX, National Model MHSS, Coimbatore; K.Sujitha, Std.XII, SRP College, Mumbai; M.Gaayathri, Std.IX, St.Francis Anglo Indian GHS, Coimbatore; Deepika Durai, Std.X, Our Lady of HS, Mumbai

BILLU

Concept, Pictures: PILLAI



K.Karthik, Std: IX, N.St Mathews P S,Vijayawada.

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